

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 352

H.P. 288

House of Representatives, January 23, 1997

An Act to Provide Additional Funds to Educate Students with Limited English Proficiency.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ROWE of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook and
Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BELANGER of Caribou, BRENNAN of
Portland, NICKERSON of Turner, O'BRIEN of Augusta, PAUL of Sanford, Senators:
ABROMSON of Cumberland, LaFOUNTAIN of York.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15603, sub-§§14-A and 14-B** are enacted to read:

6 **14-A. Limited English proficiency.** "Limited English proficiency" has the meaning set forth in the Bilingual Education Act, 20 United States Code, Section 3283(a)(1) (1988).

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10 **14-B. Limited English proficiency costs.** "Limited English proficiency costs" for subsidy purposes means:

12 A. The salary and benefit costs of teachers, educational technicians, facilitators and aides or persons contracted to perform services for students with limited English proficiency;

14 B. The cost of programs for students with limited English proficiency that have been approved by the commissioner; and

16 C. The cost of tuition or other compensation for programs that have been approved by the commissioner.

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20 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15603, sub-§26-A, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. F, §15, is amended to read:

22 B. "Actual local program costs" includes the following:

24 (1) Bus purchase costs as defined in subsection 7;

26 (2) Early childhood educational program costs as defined in subsection 10;

28 (3) Special education costs as defined in subsection 22;

30 (4) Transportation operating costs as defined in subsection 29; and

32 (5) Vocational education costs as defined in subsection 30; and

34 (6) Limited English proficiency costs as defined in subsection 14-B.

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38 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15608, sub-§2, ¶F** is enacted to read:

40 F. The limited English proficiency portion of the program cost allocation is the actual expenditures for limited English proficiency costs in section 15603, subsection 14-B.

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SUMMARY

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This bill amends the school funding formula by treating the additional costs required to educate students with limited English proficiency as program costs. This change ensures an equitable level of state funding for the special costs of educating students with limited English proficiency.