

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1207

DATE: 5-23-97

(Filing No. H-688)

MAJORITY

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 890, L.D. 1207, Bill, "An Act Concerning Authorization of Educational Technicians"

Amend the bill in section 1 by striking out all of paragraph C and inserting in its place the following:

'C. Authorize educational technicians for service in schools and approve the employment of other semiprofessional personnel;'

Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated "§13023." in subsection 1 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 30 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "standards" the following: 'and to those personnel who have been grandfathered into their current positions'

Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated "§13023." in subsection 3 in the 4th line (page 1, line 42 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "least 3" the following: 'credit'

Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated "§13023." by inserting at the end the following:

'5. Optional local authorization. A school administrative unit may develop and operate an optional local educational technician authorization system under rules adopted by the commissioner. These rules are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The requirement that school administrative units provide in-service training to paraprofessionals represents a state mandate pursuant to the Constitution of Maine. The additional local costs are expected to be minor. General Fund appropriations will be required to fund at least 90% of the additional costs unless a Mandate Preamble is amended to the bill and two-thirds of the members of each House vote to exempt this mandate from the funding requirement.

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

The Department of Education may incur some minor additional costs related to the authorization of educational technicians. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, extends the renewable educational technician authorization to grandfathered personnel and clarifies that authorization will be renewed upon the completion of 3 credit hours of professional or academic study or in-service training. The amendment also allows school administrative units the option to develop local educational technician authorization systems under rules adopted by the Commissioner of Education. Finally, this amendment adds a fiscal note to the bill.