

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

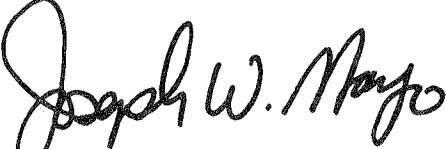
No. 1353

H.P. 973

House of Representatives, March 4, 1997

An Act to Establish a Pilot School Choice Program.

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook and
Representatives: FISK of Falmouth, GERRY of Auburn.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5815 is enacted to read:

§5815. Pilot School Choice Program

The Department of Education shall establish by rule the pilot School Choice Program, referred to in this section as the "program," in elementary education in a minimum of one school administrative district or union. The program must:

1. Allow transfer of child. Allow a parent or guardian to transfer a child to a public school or an approved, nonsectarian private school of the parent's or guardian's choice; and

2. Require payment. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Title, require the sending municipality as defined in section 15652 to pay \$2,000 per child for tuition assistance to the receiving school.

The rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules for the purposes of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Education to establish by rule the pilot School Choice Program in elementary education in a minimum of one school administrative district or union. The program would allow a parent or guardian to transfer a child to a public school or an approved, nonsectarian private school of the parent's or guardian's choice. The bill also requires the sending municipality as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15652, to pay \$2,000 for each child to the receiving school for tuition assistance.