

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1404

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H.P. 1012

House of Representatives, March 11, 1997

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### An Act to Create School Enrichment Funds for Public Schools.

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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 WATSON of Farmingdale.  
Cosponsored by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, BERRY of Livermore, BROOKS of Winterport,  
COWGER of Hallowell, GREEN of Monmouth, WHEELER of Eliot, Senators: KILKELLY  
of Lincoln, TREAT of Kennebec.

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

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4       Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1005 is enacted to read:

6       §1005. School Enrichment Fund

8       1. Fund established. Each school board shall establish a  
10       School Enrichment Fund, referred to in this section as the  
12       "fund," to provide funding for academically oriented programs and  
14       activities. The fund may not be used to replace nonvoluntary  
16       sources of funding.

18       2. Source of money. The source of money in each School  
20       Enrichment Fund is the amount contributed voluntarily by property  
22       taxpayers under Title 36, section 508 and transferred to the  
24       appropriate school board.

26       3. Disbursement. Disbursement of money from the fund is at  
28       the discretion of the school board.

30       4. Target amounts. Annually, a school board shall select  
32       the programs or activities that will be funded for the next  
34       occurring school year and determine the target amount of money  
36       that would need to be raised through the check-off procedure  
38       under Title 36, section 508. If the target amount is not met  
40       through the check-off procedure, the school board may select  
42       alternative programs or activities.

44       Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §508 is enacted to read:

46       §508. School enrichment voluntary checkoff

48       1. Tax bill. Each municipal property tax bill sent to a  
50       taxpayer must contain:

52       A. A statement that the taxpayer may make a voluntary  
54       contribution to the School Enrichment Fund to benefit public  
56       schools serving that municipality and instructions that  
58       include the amount of any such voluntary contribution by  
60       adding the amount of that contribution to the amount of  
62       property taxes due; and

64       B. A designation in substantially the following form:  
66       "Contribution to the School Enrichment Fund: ( )\$10,  
68       ( )\$25, ( )\$100 or ( ) Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_."

70       2. Contributions credited to fund. The tax collector shall  
72       determine annually the total amount contributed pursuant to  
74       subsection 1 and shall transfer that amount to the school board  
76       for schools serving that municipality charged with administering  
78       the School Enrichment Fund, pursuant to Title 20-A, section  
80       1005. When a municipality must send students to school on a

2 tuition basis, the tax collector shall apportion the total amount  
3 contributed under subsection 1 to a school board in the same  
4 ratio as students are sent to the school administrative unit for  
5 which the school board is responsible.

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### SUMMARY

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This bill establishes a voluntary checkoff for school enrichment funding contributions on local property tax bills. The money raised through voluntary contributions would be transferred to the local school board to establish a School Enrichment Fund that is used to fund predetermined academically oriented programs and activities. Under this bill, school boards are involved in determining what programs and activities will be funded and targeting amounts to be raised by the voluntary checkoff. The bill specifies that a School Enrichment Fund may not be used to replace or supplant other nonvoluntary sources of funding.

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