



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1459

H.P. 1042

House of Representatives, March 11, 1997

An Act to More Equitably Distribute General Purpose Aid to Schools Based on Property Values.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BELANGER of Caribou. Cosponsored by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook and Representatives: DESMOND of Mapleton, KNEELAND of Easton, STEDMAN of Hartland, WHEELER of Bridgewater.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
Sec.1. 20-A MRSA §15610, sub-§1, ¶G is enacted to read:
C. Naturithatanding any other law if reductions are made in
G. Notwithstanding any other law, if reductions are made in the state share of the foundation allocation by calculating
a reduction for each unit, the calculation must be performed
by applying a standard mill rate to each school
administrative unit rather than by applying a fixed
percentage.
Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15652, sub-§§2, 4 and 7, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. Z, §1 and affected by §2, are repealed.
Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15654, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1995, c.
368, Pt. Z, §1 and affected by §2, is amended to read:
A. The school administrative unit's weighted relative <u>property</u> fiscal capacity, as defined in section 15657; and
Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15657, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. Z, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:
§15657. Relative property fiscal capacity
For each school administrative unit, the commissioner shall annually determine the unit's relative property fiscal capacity
by dividing the local per pupil property fiscal capacity by the statewide per pupil property fiscal capacity.
SUMMARY
This bill removes income and cost-of-living factors from the
distribution of funding for education under the School Finance
Act of 1995, leaving relative property fiscal capacity as the
only factor. It also requires that reductions in state funds be
made by applying a mill rate to each school administrative unit rather than a percentage.