MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied (searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1688

H.P. 1189

House of Representatives, March 27, 1997

Resolve, to Promote School Choice by Establishing a Voucher Program.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MACK of Standish.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of York and
Representatives: FOSTER of Gray, GOODWIN of Pembroke, KASPRZAK of Newport,
LANE of Enfield, LAYTON of Cherryfield, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick,
SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, UNDERWOOD of Oxford.

- Sec. 1. Voucher system required. Resolved: That, beginning with the 1998-99 school year, the Department of Education, referred to in this resolve as the "department," shall administer a voucher system under which parents and students may choose the schools or other education options they wish to attend or use; and be it further
- 8 Sec. 2. System components. Resolved: That the department shall develop a plan to implement the voucher system, which must include:
 - A mechanism to ensure that amounts determined under the school funding formula to be the local share or costs are paid to the State to be redistributed along with the State's share or costs by means of the voucher; and
 - 2. A formula to calculate the voucher amounts for each school year; and be it further
 - Sec. 3. Use of vouchers. Resolved: That, under the plan developed by the department, the voucher may be used for attendance at any public or private elementary or secondary school or for any other program that provides elementary or secondary education in a setting other than a public school, including home schooling. The department may not impose any requirements or standards on any education program. If a voucher is for an amount greater than the actual costs, which may include transportation and supplies, of the school or program, remainder of the money may be retained by the parent, parents or legal guardian as long as it is used to defray other education costs that are not directly related to a school or program, including, but not limited to, athletics and the arts; and be it further
 - Sec. 4. Submission to Legislature. Resolved: That the department shall submit its plan, including any necessary implementing legislation, to implement the voucher system to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature by January 1, 1998.

SUMMARY

6

12

14

16

18

20

22

24

26

28

30

32

34

36

38

40

42

44

46

48

This resolve requires that elementary and secondary education be provided by means of a voucher system that allows students and parents to choose in which schools or programs they want to receive an education. The resolve requires the Department of Education to develop a plan to implement the voucher system beginning for school year 1998-99.