

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1769

H.P. 1250

House of Representatives, April 10, 1997

An Act to Authorize Additional Adjustments to the State Share of School Funding.

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 DESMOND of Mapleton.
Cosponsored by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln and
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, SIROIS of Caribou, STEDMAN of Hartland,
Senators: O'GARA of Cumberland, PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15607, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1983, c.
859, Pt. G, §2 and affected by §4, is repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15607, sub-§11**, as amended by PL 1987, c.
850, §2 and affected by §5, is repealed.

8 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15612, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1989, c.
10 697, §§2 and 3 and affected by §5, is repealed.

12 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15612, sub-§13**, as enacted by PL 1989, c.
14 875, Pt. E, §32, is amended to read:

16 **13. Adjustment limitations.** The amounts of the adjustments
18 paid to school administrative units or municipalities in
subsections 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 are limited to the
amounts appropriated by the Legislature for these adjustments.

20 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15612-A** is enacted to read:

22 **§15612-A. Additional adjustments**

24 Adjustments to the state share of the foundation allocation
26 must be made as provided in this section, regardless of the
amount raised for the local share of the foundation allocation
28 for operating costs.

30 **1. State share; minimum contribution.** The state share of
subsidized education costs statewide may not fall below 50% in
any given year.

32 **2. Administrative consolidation incentive adjustments.** The
34 following provisions apply to incentives for administrative
consolidation.

36 **A.** A school administrative unit qualifies for an
38 administrative consolidation incentive adjustment if unit
administrative costs were reduced in the base year as the
40 result of one or more schools within the unit consolidating
administrative services and sharing administrative costs.

42 **B.** The adjustment must be an amount equal to 5% of the
44 amounts payable to a school administrative unit pursuant to
this chapter and chapter 606-A.

46 **C.** The amount of the adjustment may not be used to fund
48 administrative costs, but must be dedicated to the salary
and benefit costs of certified teachers within those schools
50 involved in the unit's administrative consolidation.

2 3. Repayment of reduced funds in fiscal year 1991-92. The
3 commissioner shall pay to each school administrative unit the
4 amounts withheld from that unit in fiscal year 1991-92 pursuant
5 to section 15610, subsection 1, paragraphs E and F. Repayment
6 must be made over a 5-year period beginning in fiscal year
7 1997-98.

8 4. State funding of learning results. The commissioner
9 shall propose any legislation necessary to provide 100% state
10 funding for costs that school administrative units incur in
11 implementing the system of learning results established pursuant
12 to the guidelines contained in section 6209 and the combination
13 of state and local student assessments described in Public Law
14 1995, chapter 649, section 8.

15 5. Adjustment limitations. The amounts of the adjustments
16 paid to school administrative units or municipalities in
17 subsections 1 to 4 are limited to the amounts appropriated by the
18 Legislature for those adjustments.

19 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRS §15613, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 1989, c.
20 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is repealed.

21 **Sec. 7. 20-A MRS §15613, sub-§15,** as enacted by PL 1989, c.
22 875, Pt. E, §33, is amended to read:

23 **15. Disbursement limitations.** The funds disbursed in
24 accordance with ~~subsections 4 and~~ subsection 5 are limited to the
25 amounts appropriated by the Legislature for these purposes.

26 **Sec. 8. School construction funding; moratorium.** The State Board
27 of Education may not approve projects for state construction aid
28 until a statewide school facilities inventory and an independent
29 evaluation are completed. A one-year moratorium on school
30 construction project approval must be imposed for fiscal year
31 1997-98.

32 SUMMARY

33 The purpose of this bill is to amend the adjustment
34 provisions of the school finance laws. This bill accomplishes
35 the following.

36 1. It requires the state share of subsidizable education
37 costs statewide to be at least 50% annually.

38 2. It establishes a 5% incentive adjustment to promote
39 administrative consolidation of schools within a school
40 administrative unit.

2 3. It requires the Commissioner of Education to repay each
3 school administrative unit the amounts withheld from that unit in
4 fiscal year 1991-92 and establishes a 5-year repayment period
5 beginning in fiscal year 1997-98.

6
7 4. It requires the commissioner to propose the legislation
8 necessary to provide 100% state funding for any costs that school
9 administrative units incur in implementing the system of learning
10 results.

11 5. It establishes a one-year moratorium on new school
12 construction funds until a statewide school facilities inventory
13 and an independent evaluation are completed.

14 6. It repeals the provisions related to adjustments for
15 geographic isolation and nonpublic school service.
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