

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1457, L.D. 2048, Bill, "An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief and to Ensure Equitable School Funding"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Ensure Equitable School Funding'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15605, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. KKK, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Annual certification. Prior to December 15th of each year, the commissioner, with the approval of the state board, shall certify to the Governor and the Bureau of the Budget the funding levels that the commissioner recommends for sections 15604 and 15612. Commencing with the certification in December of 1994 and each December thereafter, the commissioner's recommended funded level may not exceed 105% of the funding level in effect for the fiscal year then in progress. The certification for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1994 must be consistent with the level of funding provided in the fiscal year 1994-95 biennial budget.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15653, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. Z, §1 and as affected by §2, is amended to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

3. **Legislature's contribution.** The commissioner's recommendation for an appropriation for the Legislature's contribution to the per pupil guarantee for all subsidizable pupils in all school administrative units must be at least the amount of the corresponding appropriation for the prior fiscal year, unless a lesser amount is necessary to ensure compliance with section 15607, subsection 1. ~~The appropriation may not exceed 105% of the corresponding appropriation for the prior fiscal year.~~

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

Eliminating the limitations on the Commissioner of Education's recommended funding level for school subsidy as well as the amount that the Legislature may appropriate for school subsidy may increase requests for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools beginning in fiscal year 1999-2000.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the bill's title. The amendment strikes the statutory provisions that limit both the Commissioner of Education's recommended funding level and the Legislature's appropriation for the General Purpose Aid to Local Schools to 105% of the corresponding appropriation for the prior fiscal year. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.