

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 578

H.P. 436

House of Representatives, January 21, 1999

An Act to Remove the Percentage Reduction Method from the School Funding Law.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke.
Cosponsored by Representative ANDREWS of York,
Senator CASSIDY of Washington and
Representatives: DUGAY of Cherryfield, MENDROS of Lewiston, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, STANLEY of Medway.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15603, sub-§26-A, ¶F,** as amended by PL
4 1995, c. 665, Pt. J, §2, is repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15613, sub-§17,** as enacted by PL 1997, c.
8 395, Pt. R, §1, is amended to read:

10 **17. Unobligated balances.** Unobligated balances from
12 amounts appropriated for general purpose aid for local schools
14 may not lapse but must be redistributed to school administrative
16 units in the same fiscal year. The commissioner shall make the
18 final determination of the total amount of unobligated funds and
20 must redistribute 75% of those funds to program costs and 25% of
22 those funds to out-of-district placement costs. ~~Te-redistribute~~
the--75%--portien--to--the--state--share--of--program--costs,--the
reduction--percentage--originally--calculated--for--program--costs
pursuant--to--section--15603,--subsection--26--A,--paragraph--F--must--be
reduced--by--an--amount--sufficient--to--distribute--the--75%--share,--The
reductions--in--these--percentages--apply--to--all--program--cost--areas
except--the--transpertation--operating--cost--allocation.

24 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill removes the so-called "percentage reduction
28 method" from the School Finance Act of 1985. Under this bill,
30 the state share of school funding would return to 55% of the
combined total state and local allocations for school funding.