

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1234

H.P. 877

House of Representatives, February 11, 1999

An Act to Establish the Maine School Technology Fund.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WINSOR of Norway.
Cosponsored by Senator AMERO of Cumberland and
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, MURPHY of Kennebunk.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§6**, is enacted to read:

4 6. **Maine School Technology Fund.** Beginning October 15,
6 1999 and every October 15th thereafter, the commission shall
8 provide annually 10% of net lottery proceeds or \$5,000,000,
10 whichever is greater, to the Maine School Technology Fund, as
12 established in Title 20-A, section 17201.

14 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1995, c.
16 494, §5, is further amended to read:

18 C. For payment to the General Fund; and

20 **Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 1995, c.
22 494, §5, is amended to read:

24 D. For payment to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund pursuant
26 to Title 12, section 7782+; and

28 **Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶E** is enacted to read:

30 E. For payment to the Maine School Technology Fund pursuant
32 to Title 20-A, section 17202.

34 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA c. 614** is enacted to read:

36 **CHAPTER 614**

38 **MAINE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY FUND**

40 **§17201. Fund established**

42 There is established the Maine School Technology Fund,
44 referred to in this chapter as the "fund." The fund consists of
46 revenues received pursuant to Title 8, section 387 and funds
48 received from private and public sources. The fund, to be
50 accounted within the department, must be held separate and apart
from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining
in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward
to the next fiscal year.

§17202. Expenditures from fund; distribution

Beginning December 15, 1999 and on December 15th of each
succeeding year, money in the fund must be distributed to school
administrative units that have requested the funds and that have
approved school technology plans. Funds must be allocated on a
per pupil basis at a rate equal to \$25 per pupil. Distributions

2 from the fund, to be considered entitlements, may be used only
4 for the purchase of computers, computer equipment, software or
6 staff training in accordance with each unit's approved school
8 technology plan.

6 **§17203. School technology plan**

8 Beginning September 30, 1999 and annually thereafter, each
10 school administrative unit must submit a school technology plan
12 in accordance with rules adopted by the department. These rules
14 are routine technical rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter
16 375, subchapter II-A.

14 **Sec. 6. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from the
16 Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1999-00	2000-01
18 EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
20 Maine School Technology Fund		

22 All Other	24 \$5,000,000	26 \$5,000,000
28 Provides funds to be		
30 distributed to school		
32 administrative units on a per		
34 pupil basis equal to \$25 per		
36 student. Funds may be used		
38 by the units for the purchase		
40 of computers, computer		
42 equipment, software or staff		
44 training.		

36 **SUMMARY**

38 This bill establishes the Maine School Technology Fund, the
40 funding for which will be provided from annual transfers of net
42 state lottery revenues. The current pace of technology dictates
44 that computers are often out-of-date not long after being put
46 into service. Even though computers used in schools are
48 generally productive for a longer period than those used in
business, repairs and updates are frequently required, and the
computers quickly lose their effectiveness as educational tools.
This bill will assist schools in maintaining an ongoing
technology replacement program and will provide assistance to
school staff in the use of instructional technology.