

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1263

S.P. 426

In Senate, February 16, 1999

**An Act to Ensure Fairness in Calculating the Income Factor in the
School Funding Formula.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town and
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, DESMOND of Mapleton, SANBORN of Alton,
STEVENS of Orono.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15657, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

4 **4. Appeals.** A school administrative unit may appeal to the
6 commissioner the accuracy of the income data used in accordance
8 with this section. That appeal must be made in writing within
10 30 days of the date of notification of the computed amount. The
12 commissioner shall review the appeal and make an adjustment if an
14 adjustment is justified. The commissioner may adjust the income
16 factor used based on the examination of factors such as the
18 percentage of students eligible for free and reduced meals and
20 also the comparison of data from the Bureau of Revenue Services
22 on income taxes for the municipality. The commissioner's
24 decision is final and binding.

SUMMARY

20 The purpose of this bill is to establish an appeals process
22 for school administrative units that question the accuracy of the
24 local median household income data used to determine their unit's
weighted relative fiscal capacity under the School Finance Act of
1995.