

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1509

S.P. 508

In Senate, February 25, 1999

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### An Act to Amend and Improve the Education Laws.

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Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
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 SMALL of Sagadahoc.  
Cosponsored by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin, Representatives: RICHARD of Madison,  
WESTON of Montville.

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

2  
4       **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§§17 and 18**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, are amended to read:

6           **17. Major capital costs.** "Major capital costs" is defined  
8 in section ~~15503~~ 15603, subsection ~~13~~ 17.

10           **18. Minor capital costs.** "Minor capital costs" is defined  
12 in section ~~15503~~ 15603, subsection ~~14~~ 18.

14       **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1351, sub-§1, ¶K**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 422, §8, is amended to read:

16           K. To borrow funds for minor capital costs as defined in  
18 section ~~15503~~ 15603, subsection ~~14~~ 18.

20       **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §1407, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 266, §3, is further amended to read:

22           **2. Expense of keeping the school open.** If the voters vote  
24 to keep the school open, the member municipality is liable for  
26 some additional expense for actual local operating costs and  
28 transportation costs as defined in section 15603. The  
30 determination of costs is subject to the approval of the  
32 commissioner. The cost to be borne by the town voting to keep an  
34 elementary school open is the amount that would be saved if the  
36 school were closed ~~less--the--state--operating--subsidy--for--the  
38 students--that--attend--the--elementary--school~~. Any additional costs  
40 that must be borne by the member municipality must be part of the  
42 article presented to the voters at the meeting to determine  
44 whether the school should remain open.

46       **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §5809**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 716, §§6  
48 and 7, is further amended to read:

**§5809. Students enrolled in applied technology  
educational programs**

40           Schools receiving tuition students who are enrolled in  
42 regular school day applied technology educational programs at  
44 applied technology centers, satellites or applied technology  
46 regions, under chapter 313, may charge a tuition rate not to  
48 exceed  $\frac{2}{3}$  ~~or~~ of the maximum tuition rate as computed under  
sections 5805 or 5806.

**Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §6209, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 649, §1, is amended to read:

2 The department in consultation with the state board shall  
3 establish and implement a comprehensive, statewide system of  
4 learning results, referred to in this section as the "system," no  
5 later than the 2002-03 school year. The system, based broadly  
6 upon guiding principles set forth in this section, must establish  
7 high academic standards at all grade levels in the areas of math;  
8 English; science and technology; social studies, including  
9 history, economics and civics; career preparation; visual and  
10 performing arts; health and physical education; and foreign  
11 languages. Only students in a public school or a private school  
12 approved by the State pursuant to section 2902 ~~2901~~ and approved  
13 for the receipt of public funds by private secondary schools  
14 pursuant to section 2951 are required to participate in the  
15 system of learning results. The commissioner shall develop  
16 accommodation provisions for instances where course content  
17 conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of  
18 a student's parent or guardian. The system ~~shall~~ must be adopted  
19 to accommodate exceptional students as defined in section 7001,  
20 subsection 2.

21 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRS §13013, sub-§2-A, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1997,  
22 c. 266, §17, is further amended to read:

23  
24 B. Is a teacher with 5 or more years of experience teaching  
25 within the 7 years prior to application in the State under a  
26 valid certificate in another state and who has graduated  
27 from a state-approved preparation program that utilizes the  
28 standards of a national association of state directors of  
29 teacher education and certification or a national council  
30 for accreditation of teacher education or a national board  
31 certificate issued by the National Board for Professional  
32 Teaching Standards, or its successor organization, or, with  
33 the exception of the national teachers exam, meets  
34 entry-level standards for the endorsement;

### 36 SUMMARY

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38 This bill makes several technical corrections to the  
39 education laws.

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41 It corrects errors in section number references and corrects  
42 a grammatical error.

43  
44 It changes the method of computing the amount that a town in  
45 a school administrative district would be required to pay if it  
46 votes to keep an elementary school open against recommendations  
47 of the school administrative district board of directors.  
48

2           It adds a national board certificate issued by a national  
board for professional teaching standards to the existing  
provision for qualifications for a professional teacher  
4 certificate in Maine.