

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1554

S.P. 520

In Senate, February 25, 1999

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### An Act to Create a Professional Development Fund for Maine Teachers.

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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 MILLS of Somerset.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §6210** is enacted to read:

6 **§6210. Professional development for teachers**

8 **1. Fund established.** The Fund for the Professional  
10 Development of Maine Teachers, referred to in this section as the  
12 "fund," is established to encourage innovative local initiatives  
14 in the professional development of teachers and to share the  
costs of those initiatives with local school administrative  
units. The fund is nonlapsing and consists of General Fund  
appropriations and any money available from other appropriate  
sources.

16 **2. Administration of fund.** The fund is administered by the  
18 department. A school administrative unit is eligible to apply  
for a grant from the fund.

20 **3. Award of grants.** A grant of up to \$100,000 per biennium  
22 may be awarded. The amount of each grant must be matched by  
24 funds appropriated by the school administrative unit. Grants  
26 must be awarded based on a ranking system that determines 50% of  
a school administrative unit's score based on the economic need  
of the unit and 50% on the degree that the unit's program is  
expected to meet the standards established in subsection 4. The  
department shall adopt rules governing the application for and  
awarding of grants. The rules adopted pursuant to this section  
are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
subchapter II-A.

32 **4. Standards for professional development of teachers.**  
34 Fifty percent of the weight for granting funds under this section  
must be based on the extent to which the proposed program:

36 **A. Encourages peer deliberations among teachers with**  
38 **adequate time set aside for networking on course content,**  
**pedagogy and assessment;**

40 **B. Emphasizes currently accepted best practices;**

42 **C. Involves teachers at different levels of professional**  
44 **development;**

46 **D. Includes teachers as leaders in their own professional**  
**development;**

48 **E. Will stimulate continuous, regular and nonsporadic,**  
50 **professional development activity;**

