# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

### FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1957

H.P. 1359

House of Representatives, March 23, 1999

An Act to Require Reimbursement to Municipalities for the Education of Foster Children.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SHOREY of Calais.
Cosponsored by Senator CASSIDY of Washington and
Representatives: BAGLEY of Machias, DUGAY of Cherryfield, GILLIS of Danforth,
GOODWIN of Pembroke, Senator: PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5815 is enacted to read:

### §5815. Student placed by state agency in foster home

A student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home as defined in section 1. subsection 24-A, paragraph B is considered a resident of the school administrative unit where the foster home is located. The commissioner shall reimburse the school administrative unit for the unit's actual local per pupil education expenditure and approved transportation costs for each student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home in that school administrative unit.

Educational costs authorized by this section for a student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home must be reimbursed by the department in the year of allocation at 100% of actual costs. The Department of Human Services shall transfer funds to the department to reimburse a school administrative unit that provides a public education for each student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home in the State. Expenditure of those funds is considered expenditure of local funds in computing the school administrative unit's educational program costs under chapter 606.

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires that each school administrative unit in the State must provide funds for the education of each student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home in that school unit. Under this bill, the Commissioner of Education shall provide 100% reimbursement in the year of allocation to a school unit for the actual local per pupil education expenditure and approved transportation costs for each student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home in that school unit. The Department of Human Services shall transfer funds to the Department of Education to reimburse school units that provide a public education for each student who is placed by a state agency in a foster home in the State.