

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2080

S.P. 730

In Senate, March 30, 1999

An Act to Provide Public School Choice.

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 LIBBY of York.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5801**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5
and 8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

6 **§5801. Enrollment options**

8 A student may enroll in a school offering appropriate
10 grade-level programs in any school administrative unit in the
12 State, and the school administrative unit in which the student
14 resides shall pay tuition for that student as determined under
16 this chapter to the school administrative unit in which the
18 student is enrolled. A student is eligible for all programs and
20 activities offered by the school in which that student is
22 enrolled, even if that student is enrolled in a school that is
24 not within the school administrative unit in which that student
resides. Under this chapter, the cost of a student's
transportation from place of residence to school is the
responsibility of the student and the student's family. In order
to qualify for payment of tuition under this chapter, a school
administrative unit in which a student is enrolled must notify
the school administrative unit in which the student resides of
that student's enrollment by October 1st of each year or within
30 days of enrollment if the student enrolls after that date.

26 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5803**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 797, §35,
28 is repealed.

30 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill provides statewide public school choice by
34 authorizing students to enroll in a grade-level appropriate
36 school in any school administrative unit in the State regardless
38 of where the student lives. The bill replaces current law that
40 permits a school administrative unit to decide whether to enroll
42 tuition students residing in other school administrative units.
44 Under the bill, the sending school administrative unit would be
46 responsible for payment of tuition to the school administrative
48 unit on behalf of that student enrolled. In order to qualify to
receive tuition payments, the receiving school would be required
to notify the sending school of a student's enrollment in a
school in the receiving unit by October 1st each year or within
30 days of enrollment. The student or the student's family would
be responsible for providing transportation from home to a school
in another school administrative unit. Students would be
eligible for the full range of programs and activities offered by
the school in which enrolled.