

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2170

H.P. 1520

House of Representatives, April 8, 1999

An Act to Establish a School Voucher Program.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GLYNN of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BUCK of Yarmouth, JOY of Crystal, MACK of Standish,
MENDROS of Lewiston, TRAHAN of Waldoboro.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5801**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5
4 and 8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place: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, public or private, 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 in which the student is enrolled. A
18 student is eligible for all programs and activities offered by
20 the school in which that student is enrolled, even if that
22 student is enrolled in a school that is not within the school
24 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 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28 is repealed.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, public or private, 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 on behalf of
48 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 the school
 of the parents' choice. Students would be eligible for the full
 range of programs and activities offered by the school in which
 enrolled.