

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: *May 14, 2001*

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "*A*" to S.P. 428, L.D. 1383, Bill, "An Act to Fully Fund the Geographic Isolation Adjustment"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Provide Additional Funding for the Geographic Isolation Adjustment'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the geographic isolation adjustment is intended to assist those school administrative units in geographically isolated areas of the State by adjusting the school funding formula to take into account such factors as the size of the school, distance from other schools and per pupil expenditures; and

Whereas, in recent years the geographic isolation adjustment has not been funded at the levels necessary to fulfill the purpose for which it was enacted and additional funding must be appropriated before the 90-day period expires in order that these funds be allocated to geographically isolated units in time for the start of the 2001-02 fiscal year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	2001-02	2002-03
EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
General Purpose Aid for Local Schools		
All Other	\$150,000	\$165,000
Provides additional funding for the geographic isolation adjustment.		

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

	2001-02	2002-03
APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS		
General Fund	\$150,000	\$165,000

This bill includes General Fund appropriations of \$150,000 and \$165,000 in fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively, for the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to provide additional funding for the geographic isolation adjustment.

The Governor's proposed current services budget would appropriate \$350,000 in fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03 for the geographic isolation adjustment.'

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SUMMARY

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6 This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing
8 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment
10 strikes and replaces the bill with an appropriation to the
12 General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program in the Department
14 of Education so that additional funding can be allocated to the
geographic isolation adjustment to the school funding formula
above and beyond the funds already included in the current
services budget for fiscal year 2001-02 and fiscal year 2002-03.
The amendment replaces the emergency preamble and the emergency
clause and adds a fiscal note to the bill.