

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1383

S.P. 428

In Senate, March 5, 2001

**An Act to Fully Fund the Geographic Isolation Adjustment.**

(EMERGENCY)

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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 WOODCOCK of Franklin.  
Cosponsored by Representative MENDROS of Lewiston and  
Senators: KILKELLY of Lincoln, DAVIS of Piscataquis, SHOREY of Washington,  
Representatives: ASH of Belfast, GOOLEY of Farmington, McGLOCKLIN of Embden.



## PART B

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3       **Sec. B-1. Task force established.** The Task Force to Study the  
4 Geographic Isolation Adjustment of the School Funding Formula and  
5 Other Geographic Isolation Issues, referred to in this Part as  
6 the "task force," is established.

7       **Sec. B-2. Task force membership.** The task force consists of  
8 the following 13 members:

9           1. Three members from the Senate, appointed by the  
10 President of the Senate;

11           2. Three members from the House of Representatives,  
12 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

13           3. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's  
14 designee;

15           4. Three administrators or superintendents of school  
16 districts or school unions, 2 appointed by the President of the  
17 Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;

18           5. Two teachers, one each appointed by the President of the  
19 Senate and the Speaker of the House; and

20           6. One member of the public, appointed by the President of  
21 the Senate.

22       **Sec. B-3. Chairs.** The first named Senate member is the Senate  
23 chair of the task force and the first named House of  
24 Representatives member is the House chair of the task force.

25       **Sec. B-4. Appointments; meetings.** All appointments must be  
26 made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
27 Act. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be  
28 notified by the appointing authorities once the selections have  
29 been made. When the appointment of all members has been  
30 completed, the chairs of the task force shall call and convene  
31 the first meeting of the task force no later than August 1, 2001.

32       **Sec. B-5. Duties.** The task force shall examine the issues and  
33 problems associated with and arising out of geographic isolation  
34 in this State. The task force shall give special attention to  
35 the geographic isolation adjustment to school funding as provided  
36 in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15612 and  
37 determine whether the adjustment is serving the purpose for which  
38 it was enacted, especially for those geographically isolated  
39 inland and island communities. In conducting the study, the task  
40 force may:  
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1. Hold informational sessions for discussions with knowledgeable persons;

2. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a literature search;

3. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of the public or affected persons and groups;

4. Procure and analyze relevant data;

5. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal questions within the scope of the study; and

6. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions related to issues within the scope of the study.

**Sec. B-6. Staff assistance.** Upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force.

**Sec. B-7. Compensation.** The members of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings.

**Sec. B-8. Report.** The task force shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later than January 15, 2002. If the task force requires a limited extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension.

**Sec. B-9. Budget.** The chairs of the task force, with assistance from the task force staff, shall administer the task force's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the task force shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for approval. The task force may not incur expenses that would result in the task force exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the task force, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the task force chairs and staff with a status report on the task force's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

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

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### SUMMARY

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Part A of this bill provides funding to fully fund the geographic isolation adjustment to the school funding formula.

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12           Part B of this bill establishes the Task Force to Study the  
Geographic Isolation Adjustment of the School Funding Formula and  
14           Other Geographic Isolation Issues to study and report on issues,  
especially in the area of school funding, for those  
geographically isolated island and inland communities.