

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1580

S.P. 491

In Senate, March 13, 2001

**An Act to Fund the Implementation of Student Achievement Standards
by Fulfilling the State Commitment to Fund 55% of Public Education
Costs for Kindergarten to Grade 12.**

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 KILKELLY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative ESTES of Kittery and
Senators: NUTTING of Androscoggin, O'GARA of Cumberland, PENDLETON of
Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: GOOLEY of Farmington,
HALL of Bristol, JONES of Greenville, MADORE of Augusta, MAYO of Bath, RINES of
Wiscasset, TESSIER of Fairfield, TRACY of Rome, TRAHAN of Waldoboro, WINSOR of
Norway.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15602, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1985, c.
4 505, §12, is further amended to read:

6 **1. Contributions from General Fund.** It is the intent of
8 the Legislature to provide by fiscal year 2006-07 at least 55% of
10 the cost of the total allocation from General Fund revenue
sources or a percentage no less than that provided in the year
prior to the year of allocation, whichever is greater.

12 The amount of the teacher recognition grants authorized in
14 section 13503-A which that are paid or deemed eligible to be paid
on August 15, 1986, shall must be added to the actual local
16 operating costs expended by local units in 1986-87. The minimum
amount of the cost of the total allocation from General Fund
18 revenue sources for 1988-89 shall must be increased by the total
amount expended by the State in 1986-87 for teacher recognition
20 grants in accordance with section 13503-A and block grants in
accordance with section 13509. The resulting percentage shall
22 must be used to define the minimum percentage contribution from
General Fund revenue sources in 1988-89 and subsequent years.

24 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15602, sub-§§1-A and 1-B** are enacted to
read:

26 **1-A. Annual minimum contribution level.** Beginning in
28 fiscal year 2001-02, the Legislature shall establish annually a
minimum contribution level for the cost of the total allocation
30 in order to achieve the 55% minimum contribution level
established in subsection 1 by fiscal year 2006-07. For fiscal
32 year 2001-02, the minimum contribution level is 45% and, for
fiscal year 2002-03, the minimum contribution level is 47%. In
34 the subsequent 4 fiscal years, it is the intent of the
Legislature to achieve the minimum contribution level targets
36 established in this subsection.

38 A. For fiscal year 2003-04, the minimum contribution level
target is 49%.

40 B. For fiscal year 2004-05, the minimum contribution level
42 target is 51%.

44 C. For fiscal year 2005-06, the minimum contribution level
target is 53%.

46 D. For fiscal year 2006-07, the minimum contribution level
48 target is 55%.

2 1-B. System of learning results; funding full
3 implementation. Beginning in fiscal year 2001-02, if the
4 appropriation determined by the Legislature to be needed to
5 achieve the minimum contribution levels for the cost of the total
6 allocation established under subsection 1 and this subsection are
7 not achieved, the timeline imposed on school administrative units
8 to achieve the system of learning results established under
9 section 6209 shall become voluntary timelines and the timeline
10 for full implementation of the system of learning results shall
11 be established at the discretion of school boards in the State.
12 Local school boards may not be required to fully implement the
13 system of learning results unless and until the State meets the
14 requirements of subsection 1 and this subsection.

16 SUMMARY

18 This bill provides that the Legislature shall provide at
19 least 55% of the cost of the total allocation from General Fund
20 revenue sources by fiscal year 2006-07. Under this bill, the
21 Legislature is required to annually establish a minimum
22 contribution level to achieve the 55% minimum contribution
23 level. The bill establishes a minimum contribution level of 45%
24 for fiscal year 2001-02 and a minimum contribution level of 47%
25 for fiscal year 2002-03. The bill further establishes minimum
26 contribution level targets over the next 4 fiscal years to
27 achieve the 55% minimum contribution level by fiscal year 2006-07.

28 The bill also provides that the State must appropriate the
29 necessary General Fund revenue to meet the minimum contribution
30 levels established in order for the academic year 2002-03
31 deadline imposed on school administrative units to achieve the
32 system of learning results to remain in effect. If the minimum
33 contribution levels are not achieved, then this deadline becomes
34 voluntary and the timeline for full implementation of the system
35 of learning results is established at the discretion of school
36 boards.