

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 69

H.P. 77

House of Representatives, January 16, 2003

An Act To Clarify the Intent of School Budget Referendum Language

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Speaker COLWELL of Gardiner.
Cosponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec and
Representatives: ANDREWS of York, CUMMINGS of Portland, FINCH of Fairfield,
FISCHER of Presque Isle, LEDWIN of Holden, NORTON of Bangor, THOMAS of Orono,
Senator: BRENNAN of Cumberland.

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

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Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15614, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. G, §§2 and 4, is amended to read:

A. An article in substantially the following form shall must be used when a school administrative unit is considering the appropriation of the foundation allocation.

(1) "Article : To see what sum the municipality/district will appropriate from the foundation allocation for school purposes (Recommend \$) and to see what sum the municipality/district will raise as the local share of the foundation allocation (Recommend \$).
Explanation: The foundation allocation is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a school district must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars."

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15614, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. G, §§2 and 4, is amended to read:

A. An article in substantially the following form shall must be used when a school administrative unit is considering the appropriation for debt service allocation.

(1) "Article : To see what sum the municipality/district will raise as the local share of debt service (Recommend \$). Explanation: Debt service is the amount of money needed to repay the school district's long-term debt for construction. In this district, the total debt owed is (\$). The local share of that debt is (\$) and the state-reimbursed share of that debt is (\$)."

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15614, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1999, c. 710, §12, is further amended to read:

3. Additional local appropriation. A school administrative unit may raise and expend funds for educational purposes in addition to the funds under subsections 1 and 2. An article in substantially the following form must be used when a school administrative unit is considering the appropriation of additional local funds:

"Article : To see what sum the municipality/district will raise and to appropriate the sum of (Recommend \$) in additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15614.

2 Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally
3 raised funds over and above the minimum amount found in the
4 foundation allocation that will help achieve the school
5 district's budget for educational programs."

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8 **SUMMARY**

10 Under current law, the legislative body of a school
11 administrative unit must vote to raise and appropriate amounts
12 using articles that are worded in "substantially" the same form
13 as is set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes. This bill adds
14 language to the required format of school referenda articles to
explain to the voters the meaning of the terms "foundation
allocation," "debt service" and "additional local funds."