

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 744

H.P. 550

House of Representatives, February 14, 2003

An Act To Ensure Improved Stability in School Funding Distributions

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15652, sub-§6,** as enacted by PL 1995, c.
368, Pt. Z, §1 and affected by §2, is amended to read:

6 **6. Property fiscal capacity.** "Property fiscal capacity"
means ~~the lesser of~~ the average of the state valuation amounts
8 for the 2 5 most recent years prior to the year of funding ~~or the~~
~~state valuation amount for the most recent year.~~

10 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15656, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1999, c.
12 401, Pt. GG, §8, is amended to read:

14 **1. Pupil count used for operating costs.** The pupil count
used for operating costs in this chapter is ~~the greater of the~~
16 ~~average of the 2 census counts for the most recent calendar year~~
and the average of the ~~4~~ 10 census counts for the 2 5 most
18 recent calendar years.

20 A. The 2 census counts in each calendar year must be for
April 1st and October 1st.

22 B. As an exception, only the 2 census counts in the most
24 recent calendar year may be used for:

26 (1) Kindergarten to grade 8 students for units that
send all their kindergarten to grade 8 students as
28 tuition students to schools elsewhere in the State;

30 (2) Grade 9 to grade 12 students for units that send
all their grade 9 to grade 12 students as tuition
32 students to schools elsewhere in the State; and

34 (3) Kindergarten to grade 12 students for units that
send all their kindergarten to grade 12 students as
36 tuition students to schools elsewhere in the State.

38 **SUMMARY**

40 This bill requires that the pupil count and the property
42 valuation data used for determination of the state general
purpose aid for local schools subsidy to be distributed to each
44 school administrative unit be based on the averages of the annual
numbers for pupil count and for property valuation for the most
46 recent 5-year period.