MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied (searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 850

H.P. 627

House of Representatives, February 20, 2003

An Act To Establish a New School Funding Formula

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

Millicent M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McKENNEY of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Wells, MURPHY of Kennebunk.

2	
	Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA cc. 606 and 606-A, as amended, are repealed.
4	Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA c. 606-B is repealed.
6	Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA c. 606-C is enacted to read:
8	CHAPTER 606-C
10	
12	SCHOOL FINANCE ACT OF 2003
	15681. Short title
	This chapter is known and may be cited as "the School inance Act of 2003."
18 §	15682. General purpose aid to local schools
20	1. Contributions from the state General Fund. Prior to
	ebruary 15th of each year, the Legislature shall determine the mount of general purpose aid that the State shall provide to
_	chool administrative units in the State to subsidize the costs
	f providing kindergarten to grade 12 public education.
26	2. Per pupil allocation. Prior to March 1st of each year,
	he Legislature shall determine the per pupil allocation amount
	hat the State shall provide to each student in the State,
30 <u>I</u>	egardless of where the student resides.
30	3. Pupil counts. The pupil count used for each school
	dministrative unit's calculation is the sum of the average of
	he April 1st and October 1st counts in the most recent calendar ear of all resident elementary and secondary pupils of the unit.
34 <u>y</u>	ear of all resident elementary and secondary pupils of the unit.
36	4. General purpose aid computations. The amount of general
I	urpose aid allocated to a local school administrative unit is
38 €	qual to the per pupil allocation amount multiplied by the pupil ount.
40	
•	15683. Authorization and schedules of payment of state general
42	<pre>purpose aid; appeals; limitations</pre>
44	1. Schedules of payment of unit allocation. The
	commissioner shall authorize state general purpose aid payments
	to the school administrative units to be made in accordance with
	time schedules set forth in section 15005, sections 15901 to 15910 and Title 20, sections 3457 to 3460.

2. Notification of allocation; commissioner's duty; superintendent's duty. The following provisions apply to the 2 commissioner's and each superintendent's duties regarding notification of allocation. 4 A. The commissioner shall annually, prior to March 1st, 6 notify each school board of the amount allocated to the 8 school administrative unit. B. Each superintendent shall report to the municipal 10 officers whenever the school administrative unit is notified of the allocation or a change is made in the allocation 12 resulting from an adjustment. 14 3. Payments of state subsidy to unit's treasurer. 16 commissioner shall make subsidy payments directly to the treasurer of each school administrative unit. 18 4. Appeals. A school board may appeal the computation of 20 state subsidy for the school administrative unit to the state board in writing within 30 days of the date of notification of 22 the computed amount. The state board shall review the appeal and make an adjustment if, in its judgment, an adjustment is 24 justified. The state board's decision is final as to facts supported by the record of the appeal. 26 5. School purpose expense requirement. Notwithstanding any 28 other law, money allocated for school purposes must be expended only for school purposes. 3.0 6. Balance of allocations. Notwithstanding any other law, 32 general operating fund balances at the end of a school administrative unit's fiscal year must be carried forward to meet the next year's school needs. Unallocated balances in excess of 34 3% of the previous year's school budget must be used to reduce the state and local allocations for the purpose of computing 36 state subsidy. School boards have the discretion of carrying forward unallocated balances in excess of 3% of the previous 38 year's school budget and disbursing these funds in the next year 40 or over a period not to exceed 3 years. Sec. 4. Statutes review; cross-references. 42 The Department of Education shall review the Maine Revised Statutes and submit a

SUMMARY

bill to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature to correct and update any cross-reference in the statutes to

provisions of law repealed in this Act.

50

44

46

48

This bill repeals the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606, the School Finance Act of 1985; Title 20-A, chapter 606-A, the School Finance Act of 1995; and Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, Essential Programs and Services. The bill provides that the general purpose aid to local schools program would be recreated to provide a certain amount of state subsidy to each pupil in the State regardless of where the pupil resides or attends school.