

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.O.S.

L.D. 1391

DATE: 5-20-03

(Filing No. S-219)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Reported by: Minority

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 461, L.D. 1391, Bill, "An Act To Approve Public Charter Schools in Maine"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 6 the following:

'Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Impact Aid Fund

Initiative: Provides a base allocation to establish the Impact Aid Fund to provide financial assistance to school administrative units with fewer than 600 students that have been affected by the establishment of a charter school in their area.

Table with 3 columns: Other Special Revenue Funds, 2003-04, 2004-05. Rows include All Other and Other Special Revenue Funds Total.

Charter school fund

Initiative: Provides a base allocation to establish a charter school fund to support activities related to developing an effective charter school program in the State.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**RES**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "**A**" to S.P. 461, L.D. 1391

2	<b>Other Special Revenue Funds</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>
	All Other	\$500	\$500
4	Other Special Revenue Funds Total	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$500	\$500
6	<b>EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>
8			
	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
10		<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,000'</b>
12			

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

121st Maine Legislature  
Office of Fiscal and Program Review



LD 1391  
An Act To Approve Public Charter Schools in Maine

LR 0960(02)  
Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *AS219*  
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes  
Minority Report

**Fiscal Note**

Undetermined current biennium cost increase - General Fund

	2003-04	2004-05	Projections 2005-06	Projections 2006-07
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

**Fiscal Detail and Notes**

This bill establishes charter schools as a new type of public school that will be part of the State's program of public education. The requirement that all state and local funding associated with operating, program and special education costs follow each child to the charter school the child attends will result in a significant redistribution of the funds available from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program. The impact to individual school units can not be determined at this time. Additionally, although this bill defines charter schools as a "school administrative unit" and therefore allows charter schools to be eligible for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools, it is not clear how the charter schools will raise the local share required in order to receive state subsidy. The additional cost to the Department of Education and the State Board of Education associated with implementing this legislation can not be determined at this time.

This bill establishes the Charter School Fund within the Department of Education to obtain funds from private and public sources to support activities related to developing an effective charter school program in the State. This bill includes Other Special Revenue Funds base allocations of \$500 in fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05 for the Department of Education to establish the Charter School Fund.

This bill also establishes the Impact Aid Fund within the Department of Education to provide financial support to school administrative units with fewer than 600 students who may have been negatively impacted by the establishment of a public charter school in their area and authorizes the Department to contribute \$50,000 per year for the next four years. This legislation allows funds to be transferred from the Charter School Fund to support the Impact Aid Fund. However, it is unclear whether sufficient funds will be available from the Charter School Fund for

Impact Aid Fund. However, it is unclear whether sufficient funds will be available from the Charter School Fund for this purpose. The ability of the Department to contribute \$50,000 to this fund without additional General Fund appropriations can not be determined at this time. This bill includes an additional Other Special Revenue Fund base allocation of \$500 in fiscal year 2003-04 and \$500 in fiscal year 2004-05 for the Department of Education to establish the Impact Aid Fund.

Finally, this bill allows for teachers in a non-charter school who are members of the Maine State Retirement System and take a leave of absence to teach in a charter school to continue to participate in the retirement system while on leave. Although this legislation is not clear who will be responsible for the cost, the employee and employer contribution rate for those teachers must continue to be paid.