

	L.D. 1629
2	DATE: 6/13/03 (Filing No. H-588)
4	
6	TAXATION
8	Minority
10	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
12	
14	STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 121ST LEGISLATURE
16	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
18	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1209, L.D. 1629,
20	"RESOLUTION, Proposing a Competing Measure under the Constitution of Maine To Create Municipal Service Districts To Reduce the Cost
22	of Local Government, To Provide Property Tax Relief and To Increase Economic Competitiveness"
24	-
26	Amend the resolution by striking out the title and substituting the following:
28	'RESOLUTION, Proposing a Competing Measure under the Constitution of Maine To Create Regional Service Districts To Reduce the Cost
30	of Local Government, To Provide Property Tax Relief and To Increase Economic Competitiveness'
32	Further amend the resolution by striking out Part A and Part
34	B and inserting in their place the following:
36	PART A
38	Sec. A-1. 30-A MRSA c. 112 is enacted to read:
40	<u>CHAPTER 112</u>
42	REGIONAL SERVICE DISTRICTS
44	<u>§2111. Purpose</u>
46	The purpose of this chapter is to enhance the ability of municipalities to cooperate and consolidate on a basis of mutual
48	advantage in the efficient and effective exercise of municipal obligations and home-rule authority pursuant to this Part through
50	voluntary creation of and delegation to regional service districts or through other cooperative agreements that achieve

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2	similar cost savings, including, but not limited to, cooperative agreements with county governments. The goal and results of
4	cooperation and consolidation are to achieve significant property tax relief and to increase municipalities' ability to fund public education.
б	Sec. A-2. Legislation and review. By January 2, 2004, the
8	Executive Department shall present legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government to carry out the
10	purpose of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 112. The Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government shall
12	review this legislation.
14	PART B
16	Sec. B-1. 36 MRSA c. 105, sub-c. 1-A is enacted to read:
18	SUBCHAPTER 1-A
20	PROPERTY TAX CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC EDUCATION
22	§521. Definitions
24	As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.
26	
28	1. Full value mill rate expectation. "Full value mill rate expectation" means the maximum property tax rate that may be applied to the value of property for the purpose of funding
30	public education from kindergarten to grade 12.
32	2. Funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. "Funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12" means
34	the cost of funding essential programs and services as described in Title 20-A, chapter 606-B.
36	§522. Maximum mill rates established
38	
40	1. Maximum full value mill rate expectation. Notwithstanding Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, with respect to the
	assessment of any property taxes for property tax years beginning
42	on or after April 1, 2005, this section establishes the full value mill rate expectations that may be applied to the value of
44	property for the purpose of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. For a municipality that assesses
46	property at a percentage other than 100% of just value, the
40	maximum mill rate calculated under subsection 2 must be adjusted, in the process of assessment and prior to commitment, to the mill
48	in the process of assessment and prior to commitment, to the mill rate that generates the equivalent revenue that would be

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collected if the municipal 2 just value.

<u>collected if the municipality were assessing property at 100% of just value.</u>

- 2. Calculation of full value mill rate expectation. For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2005, the Commissioner of Education shall calculate the full value mill rate expectation that is required to fund the local share of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 according to the following schedule.
- 10

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- A. For the 2005 property tax year, the full value mill rate
 expectation is the amount necessary to result in a 51% local share in fiscal year 2005-06.
- B. For the 2006 property tax year, the full value mill rate
 expectation is the amount necessary to result in a 49.5%
 local share in fiscal year 2006-07.
- C. For the 2007 property tax year, the full value mill rate
 expectation is the amount necessary to result in a 48% local share in fiscal year 2007-08.
- D. For the 2008 property tax year, the full value mill rate expectation is the amount necessary to result in a 46.5% local share in fiscal year 2008-09.
- E. For the 2009 property tax year and subsequent years, the full value mill rate expectation is the amount necessary to result in a 45% local share in fiscal year 2009-10.
- 30
- 32

§523. Exceeding mill rate expectations; referendum process

The legislative body of a school administrative unit, as defined in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 26, may adopt property tax rates that exceed the adjusted full value mill rate expectation established by section 522.

Sec. B-2. Basis for funding costs of education from kindergarten to grade 12. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning
in fiscal year 2005-06, funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, as defined in the Maine Revised
Statutes, Title 36, section 521, must be based on the cost of providing essential programs and services as described in the
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B.

 46 Sec. B-3. Savings from school construction bond refinancing and unexpended balance. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
 48 at the close of fiscal year 2003-04 and fiscal year 2004-05 the Commissioner of Education shall allocate any unexpended funds
 50 from General Purpose Aid for Local Schools,

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1209, L.D. 1629 including those funds resulting from the refinancing of school 2 construction bonds, to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools in subsequent years. These funds may not be expended in fiscal 4 year 2003-04 or fiscal year 2004-05 but must be carried forward. These funds may be allotted in fiscal year 2005-06 by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and 6 approval of the Governor.' 8 Further amend the resolution in Part C by striking out all of sections 1 to 14 and inserting in their place the following: 10 'Sec. C-1. 36 MRSA §662 is enacted to read: 12 §662. Business equipment 14 16 1. Eligible business equipment exempt. Eligible business equipment is exempt from all taxation under this Part, except 18 chapters 111 and 112. 20 2. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. 22 24 "BETR-expired property" means property that was eligible Α. for property tax reimbursement under chapter 915, but is no 26 longer eligible for such reimbursement due to the fact that reimbursements have been made for the entire length of time for which reimbursements were allowed under section 6652, 28 subsection 1. 30 "Eligible business equipment" means gualified business в. property that, in the absence of this section, would first 32 be subject to taxation under this Part after April 1, 2003 and BETR-expired property. "Eligible business equipment" 34 includes, without limitation, repair parts, replacement parts, additions, accessions and accessories to other 36 gualified business property that first became taxable under 38 this Part on or before April 1, 2003 if the part, addition, accession or accessory would, in the absence of this 40 section, first be subject to taxation under this Part after April 1, 2003. "Eligible business equipment" also includes 42

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42 inventory parts for qualified business property that, in the absence of this section, would first be subject to taxation
 44 under this Part after April 1, 2003.

46 <u>"Eligible business equipment" does not include:</u> 48 (1) Office furniture, including, without limitation, tables, chairs, desks, bookcases, filing cabinets and modular office partitions;

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2	(2) Lamps and lighting fixtures; and
4	(3) Property owned or used by an excluded person.
б	C. "Excluded person" means:
8	(1) A public utility as defined in Title 35-A, section 102, subsection 13;
10	
12	(2) A person that provides radio paging services as defined in Title 35-A, section 102, subsection 15;
14	(3) A person that provides mobile telecommunications services as defined in Title 35-A, section 102,
16	subsection 9-A;
18	(4) A cable television company as defined in Title 30-A, section 2001, subsection 2;
20	
22	(5) A person that provides satellite-based direct television broadcast services; or
24	(6) A person that provides multichannel, multipoint television distribution services.
26	
	D. "Inventory parts" includes repair parts, replacement
28	parts, replacement equipment, additions, accessions and accessories on hand but not in service and stocks or
30	inventories of repair parts, replacement parts, replacement
32	equipment, additions, accessions and accessories on hand but not in service and other machinery and equipment on hand for
	future use but not in service if acquired after April 1,
34	2003, regardless of when placed in service.
36	E. "Qualified business property" means tangible personal property that:
38	(1) Is used or held for use exclusively for a business
40	purpose by the person in possession of it or, in the
42	case of construction in progress or inventory parts, is intended to be used exclusively for a business purpose
	by the person who will possess that property; and
44	(2) Either:
46	
48	<u>(a) Was subject to an allowance for depreciation</u> <u>under the Code on April 1st of the property tax</u> <u>year for which a claim for exemption under</u>
50	subsection 4 is filed, or would have been subject

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	to an allowance for depreciation under the Code as
2	of that date but for the fact that the property
2	has been fully depreciated; or
4	has been fully depreciated; of
4	(b) In the ener of construction in success on
6	(b) In the case of construction in progress or
0	inventory parts, would be subject under the Code
8	to an allowance for depreciation when placed in
o	service or would have been subject to an allowance
10	for depreciation under the Code as of that date
10	but for the fact that the property has been fully
10	<u>depreciated.</u>
12	
7.4	"Qualified business property" also includes all property
14	that is affixed or attached to a building or other real
• •	estate if it is used primarily to further a particular trade
16	or business activity taking place in that building or on
	that real estate. "Oualified business property" does not
18	include components or attachments to a building if used
	primarily to serve the building as a building, regardless of
20	the particular trade or activity taking place in or on the
	building. "Qualified business property" also does not
22	include land improvements if used primarily to further the
	use of the land as land, regardless of the particular trade
24	or business activities taking place in or on the land. In
	the case of construction in progress or inventory parts, the
26	term "used" means intended to be used. "Qualified business
••	property" also does not include any vehicle registered for
28	on-road use on which a tax assessed pursuant to chapter 111
	has been paid or any watercraft registered for use on state
30	waters on which a tax assessed pursuant to chapter 112 has
22	been paid.
32	2 Additional limitations What amountions annuided
24	3. Additional limitations. The exemptions provided
34	pursuant to this section are limited as follows.
26	A. Exemption for certain energy facilities under this
36	A. Exemption for certain energy facilities under this section is limited as follows.
38	Seccion is limited as follows.
50	(1) The exemption provided by this section does not
40	apply to a natural gas pipeline, including pumping or
10	compression stations, storage depots and appurtenant
42	facilities used in the transportation, delivery or sale
<u> </u>	of natural gas but not including a pipeline that is
44	less than a mile in length and is owned by a consumer
	of natural gas delivered through the pipeline.
46	<u>vi monine 300 noservision universit providente</u>
	(2) The exemption provided in this section does not
48	apply to property used to produce or transmit energy
	primarily for sale. Energy is primarily for sale if
50	during the immediately preceding property tax year 2/3
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	or more of the useful energy is directly or indirectly
2	<u>sold and transmitted through the facilities of a</u>
	transmission and distribution utility.
4	
	(3) For purposes of this paragraph, unless the context
б	otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
_	following meanings.
8	
10	(a) "Transmission and distribution utility" has
10	the same meaning as defined in Title 35-A, section
12	102, subsection 20-B.
12	(b) "Monthal anargy" is anargy in any form that
14	<u>(b) "Useful energy" is energy in any form that</u> does not include waste heat, efficiency losses,
7.4	line losses or other energy dissipation.
16	<u>ine iosses of other energy dissipation.</u>
10	B. Pollution control facilities that are entitled to
18	exemption pursuant to section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E
	are not entitled to an exemption under this section, except
20	that such property is entitled to exemption under this
	section if:
22	
	(1) The property is entitled to an exemption under
24	section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E but has not yet
	been certified for exemption under that paragraph;
26	
	(2) The property has been placed in service after the
28	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax
	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to
28 30	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the
30	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to
	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and
30 32	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required
30	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of
30 32 34	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required
30 32	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st.
30 32 34	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that
30 32 34 36	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st.
30 32 34 36	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3)
30 32 34 36 38	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section
30 32 34 36 38	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the
30 32 34 36 38 40 42	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the assessor denies an exemption on the ground that the property in question is entitled to exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E and the taxpayer appeals the
30 32 34 36 38 40	December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the assessor denies an exemption on the ground that the property in question is entitled to exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E and the taxpayer appeals the denial, the assessor shall, at the taxpayer's request, allow
30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44	 December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the assessor denies an exemption on the ground that the property in question is entitled to exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E and the taxpayer appeals the denial, the assessor shall, at the taxpayer's request, allow the taxpayer up to one year to obtain a statement from the
30 32 34 36 38 40 42	 December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the assessor denies an exemption on the ground that the property in question is entitled to exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E and the taxpayer appeals the denial, the assessor shall, at the taxpayer's request, allow the taxpayer up to one year to obtain a statement from the Commissioner of Environmental Protection that the property
30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46	 December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the assessor denies an exemption on the ground that the property in question is entitled to exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E and the taxpayer appeals the denial, the assessor shall, at the taxpayer's request, allow the taxpayer up to one year to obtain a statement from the Commissioner of Environmental Protection that the property at issue is not exempt under section 656, subsection 1,
30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44	 December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the assessor denies an exemption on the ground that the property in question is entitled to exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E and the taxpayer appeals the denial, the assessor shall, at the taxpayer's request, allow the taxpayer up to one year to obtain a statement from the Commissioner of Environmental Protection fo56, subsection 1, paragraph E has been for the property at issue is not exempt under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E. If the taxpayer timely produces such a
30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48	 December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the assessor denies an exemption on the ground that the property in question is entitled to exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E and the taxpayer appeals the denial, the assessor shall, at the taxpayer is request, allow the taxpayer up to one year to obtain a statement from the Commissioner of Environmental Protection 656, subsection 1, paragraph E. If the taxpayer timely produces such a statement or otherwise demonstrates that the property is not
30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46	 December 1st immediately preceding April 1st of the tax year for which the exemption is sought but prior to April 1st of the property tax year for which the exemption is sought; and (3) The taxpayer has submitted the required application for certification to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection prior to April 1st. The exemption under this section continues for property that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) only until the certification for exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been granted. If the assessor denies an exemption on the ground that the property in question is entitled to exemption under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E and the taxpayer appeals the denial, the assessor shall, at the taxpayer's request, allow the taxpayer up to one year to obtain a statement from the Commissioner of Environmental Protection 656, subsection 1, paragraph E has been for the property at issue is not exempt under section 656, subsection 1, paragraph E. If the taxpayer timely produces such a

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2 4. Reporting. On or before June 1st of each year, a taxpayer claiming an exemption under this section shall file a 4 report with the assessor of the taxing jurisdiction in which the property would otherwise be subject to taxation. The report must identify the property for which exemption is claimed and must be 6 made on a form prescribed by the State Tax Assessor or substitute form approved by the State Tax Assessor. The State Tax Assessor 8 shall furnish copies of the form to each municipality in the 10 State and the form must be made available to taxpayers prior to April 1st. The assessor may require the taxpayer to sign the form and make oath to its truth. 12

- 14 The assessor may request in writing that taxpayers answer in writing all reasonable inquiries as to the nature, situation and 16 value of the property for which exemption is requested. A
- taxpayer has 60 days from receipt of such inquiries to respond. 18

The assessor may at any time grant an extension of the time periods for action provided for in this subsection. Upon written request, a taxpayer is entitled to a 30-day extension of time as a matter of right and additional extensions for good cause, it being the intent that extensions be granted liberally to avoid forfeiture of the exemption.

26 Failure to comply with the provisions of this subsection on a timely basis, including any extensions of time, results in a penalty equal to the lesser of \$5,000 or 10% of the taxes that 28 would be imposed on the exempt property in the absence of the 30 exemption as long as the taxpayer complies with the provisions of this subsection before October 1st following the April 1st exemption date. The penalty amount is treated as property taxes 32 and must be paid to the municipality as such. The penalty may be waived by the assessor for good cause. A failure to comply with 34 the provisions of this subsection by October 1st following the April 1st exemption date disgualifies the property involved from 36 exemption for that tax year. All notices and requests provided 38 pursuant to this subsection must conspicuously state the consequences of the taxpayer's failure to respond to the notice or request in a timely manner. 40

42 If an exemption has already been granted and the State Tax Assessor then determines that the property is not entitled to 44 exemption, a supplemental assessment must be made within 3 years of the original assessment date with respect to the property in 46 compliance with section 713, without regard to the limitations contained in that section regarding the justification necessary

48 <u>for a supplemental assessment.</u>

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	5. Local review. Reports properly filed pursuant to
2	subsection 4 must be reviewed by the assessor with whom they are
	filed. A taxing jurisdiction is not entitled to state
4	reimbursement pursuant to section 661 with respect to property
	entitled to exemption under this section unless the assessor
6	certifies to the State Tax Assessor that the property qualifies
	for such exemption. The local taxing jurisdiction shall file an
8	annual certification for business equipment exemptions by
	November 1st following the April 1st exemption date or 30 days
10	after commitment of taxes, whichever is later, but in no event
	later than 120 days following November 1st following the April
12	1st exemption date. All exemptions certified by the local
	taxing jurisdiction must be applied in calculating the taxable
14	valuation of property in that jurisdiction, unless the
	jurisdiction determines that the property is not entitled to
16	exemption and provides a corrected certification to the State Tax
	Assessor.
18	

6. State valuation. The State Tax Assessor shall annually 20 determine the value of property that is exempt pursuant to this section based upon the business equipment exemption 22 certifications filed by local taxing jurisdictions under subsection 5. The State Tax Assessor shall use the valuation of 24 exempt property so determined to compute the reimbursement required by section 661 arising from property tax exemptions. 26 The State Tax Assessor shall establish a uniform methodology to be used in determining the just value of certified exempt property. The valuations of certified exempt property as 28 determined by the State Tax Assessor must be reported to local taxing jurisdictions no later than July 1st following receipt of 30 the certified reports. The valuations determined may be appealed 32 in the same fashion as provided for the state valuation determined in accordance with section 305, subsection 1, with the exception that the State Board of Property Tax Review, as 34 established by Title 5, section 12004-B, subsection 6, must 36 render its decision no later than November 15th following the date on which the appeal is taken. The board must certify its 38 decisions on these exemption appeals to the State Tax Assessor by December 1st of the year following the application of the 40 exemption. The valuations of exempt property must be filed with the Secretary of State by December 10th following the year of 42 exemption.

44	7. State review. The State Tax Assessor may review
	exemption claims made under this section and may disgualify any
46	exemption certified under subsection 5 within a 2-year period
	from the date of the local tax jurisdiction certification. In a
48	case in which a local taxing jurisdiction has already received
	reimbursement, the excess reimbursement may be offset against the
50	next reimbursement payment. A local taxing jurisdiction

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aggrieved by a decision of the State Tax Assessor to disqualify a certified exemption after the exemption amount has been filed 2 with the Secretary of State may seek review as provided by section 151. The assessor shall send notice to the taxpayer, in 4 the manner and of the type provided for in section 151 in the case of a reconsideration decision, of any decision to disgualify 6 an exemption. The taxpayer may seek reconsideration pursuant to 8 section 151 of the State Tax Assessor's decision to disqualify any exemption claimed by the taxpayer. 10 8. Legislative findings. The Legislature finds that 12 encouragement of the growth of capital investment in this State is in the public interest and promotes the general welfare of the people of the State. The Legislature further finds that the high 14 cost of owning qualified business property in this State is a disincentive to the growth of capital investment in this State. 16 The Legislature further finds that the tax exemption set forth in 18 this section is a reasonable means of overcoming this disincentive and will encourage capital investment in this State.' 20 Further amend the resolution in Part C by striking out all 22 of section 17. Further amend the resolution by striking out all of Part D. 24 26 Further amend the resolution in Part E in section 2 by striking out all of the question (page 50, lines 21 to 23 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following: 28 30 ' "Do you want the State to pay 55% of the costs of public education without raising taxes?" ' 32 Further amend the resolution in Part E by inserting after 34 section 2 the following: 36 'Sec. E-3. Transfer of funds. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Controller shall transfer \$254,286 from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools account in the 38 Department of Education to the General Fund unappropriated surplus no later than June 30, 2005. 40 Sec. E-4. Appropriations and allocations. 42 The following appropriations and allocations are made. 44 ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF 46 Revenue Services - Bureau of 0002 48 Initiative: Provides funds for 3 Claims Administration positions 50 and related costs associated with property valuation and property tax exemption reimbursement.

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2	General Fund	2003-04	2004-05
	Positions - Legislative Count	(0.000)	(3.000)
4	Personal Services	\$0	\$165,786
	All Other	0	88,500
6			
	General Fund Total	\$0	\$254,286'

Further amend the resolution by relettering or renumbering 10 any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

16 This amendment strikes Part A and Part B of the resolution, which provided the details of a municipal service district 18 concept, and in their place expresses the legislative purpose for the adoption of regional service districts and directs the 20 Executive Department to submit legislation by January 2, 2004 to carry out this purpose. The legislation will be reviewed by the 22 Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

24 This amendment provides new language establishing the essential programs and services model for funding education as the basis for the calculation of a full value mill rate 26 expectation identifying the state and local share of the cost of providing essential programs and services beginning in fiscal 28 year 2005-06. The state share increases from 49% in fiscal year 2005-06 to 55% in fiscal year 2009-10. Funds to assist in 30 increasing the state share of education funding would be obtained from refinancing school construction debt and from General 32 Purpose Aid to Local Schools carry-over. The amendment also makes minor miscellaneous changes to the provisions establishing 34 a property tax exemption for certain business property. 36

The amendment also changes the question that would be 38 presented to the voters for the competing measure.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED (See attached)

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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121st Maine Legislature Office of Fiscal and Program Review

LD 1629

RESOLUTION, Proposing a Competing Measure under the Constitution of Maine to Create Municipal Service Districts to Reduce the Cost of Local Government, to Provide Property Tax Relief and to Increase Economic Competitiveness

LR 2165(03) Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " " Committee: Taxation Fiscal Note Required: Yes Minority Report

Fiscal Note

		2003-04	2004-05	Projections 2005-06	Projections 2006-07
Net Cost (Savings) General Fund		\$0	\$0	(\$20,651,208)	\$14,716,289
Appropriations/Allocations General Fund		\$0	\$254,286	(\$20,651,208)	\$14,716,289
Transfers General Fund		\$0	\$254,286	\$0	\$0
Referendum Costs	Month/Year Nov-03	Election Type General	Question Referendum	Length Lengthy	

The Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one ballot of average length for the general election in November 2003. If the number or size of the referendum questions increases the ballot length, an additional appropriation of \$8,000 or more may be required.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The implementation of this bill is contingent upon approval by the voters. If approved by the voters, this bill has the following impact.

			Projections	Projections
General Fund Summary	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	(\$8,763,692)	(\$21,064,966)
Municipal Property Tax Exemption Reimb.	\$0	\$0	\$5,842,000	\$12,095,000
Maine Revenue Services Administrative Costs	\$0	\$284,286	(\$712,189)	(\$747,798)
Net Approp\Deapprop to fund EPS	\$0	\$0	(\$17,017,327)	\$24,434,053
Transfer from Dept. of Educ. to General Fund	\$0	(\$284,286)	\$0	\$0
Net General Fund Cost (Savings)	\$0	\$0	(\$20,651,208)	\$14,716,289

Limiting Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) to property placed in service on or before April 1, 2003 will result in General Fund savings beginning in fiscal year 2005-06. Establishing a property tax exemption for certain property placed in service after April 1, 2003 will result in General Fund costs beginning in fiscal year 2005-06 due to the 50% reimbursement requirement.

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This bill also includes General Fund appropriations of \$254,286 in fiscal year 2004-05 for Maine Revenue Services for the additional costs associated with administering these provisions and a transfer from the Department of Education to offset these costs in fiscal year 2004-05.

This bill provides for a new method of determining the state and local share of funding the cost of K-12 public education beginning in fiscal year 2005-06. This bill includes the Essential and Programs and Services model, as proposed in LD 1623, An Act to Implement School Funding Based on Essential Programs and Services, as the basis for determining the total cost of K-12 public education. However, this bill differs from LD 1623 in that it requires the State's share to increase to 55% by fiscal year 2009-10 versus the 50% requirement in LD 1623. This bill provides for the calculation of a maximum local mill rate expectation to be used to determine the state and local share of the cost of funding K-12 education. The Department of Education estimates the maximum local mill rate to be 8.83 mills in fiscal year 2005-06.

This bill also requires the Department of Education to reserve any unexpended funds in the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program in fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05 and any savings from the refinancing of school construction bonds and use those funds to partially offset the cost of increasing the State's contribution of funding the cost of K-12 public education beginning in fiscal year 2005-06. The Department of Education estimates the savings to be \$6,100,000 through fiscal year 2004-05.

The following table provides estimates for the total State and Local Operating cost of funding education based on the Essential Programs and Services model and compares the total State and Local cost of funding K-12 education based on the EPS model, adjusted for the transition percentage, with the total State and Local cost of funding education based on the current model. The table also provides a comparison of the General Fund appropriations that are estimated to be needed to fund the state's share of the cost of funding K-12 education based on the State's contribution reaching 55% in fiscal year 2009-10.

State and Local Cost to Fund K-12 Public Education Essential Programs and Services vs. Current Model

	Base Year <u>2003-04</u> *	<u>2004-05</u> *	Projections <u>2005-06</u>	Projections <u>2006-07</u>
Total State & Local Operating Cost allocation based on EPS model (100%)	\$ 1,256,951,694	\$ 1,260,260,954	\$ 1,270,125,664	\$ 1,285,714,652
EPS Transition Percentage	80.82%	82.00%	84.00%	88.00%
Adjusted Total Operating Allocation based on EPS model	\$ 1,015,868,359	\$ 1,033,413,982	\$ 1,066,905,558	\$ 1,131,428,894
Total State & Local cost based on EPS funding model (includes program costs, debt service and adjustments)	\$ 1,467,457,416	\$ 1,518,173,106	\$ 1,537,199,970	\$ 1,618,879,589

Total State & Local cost based on current funding formula (includes program costs, debt service and adjustments)	\$ 1,46	7,408,432	\$ 1,503,862,194	\$ 1,543,887,175	\$ 1,589,697,612
Net Increase (Decrease) in Allocation	\$	48,984	\$ 14,310,912	\$ (6,687,205)	\$ 29,181,977
State Share Targets to fund K-12 education based on EPS model		49.89%	47.81%	49.00%	50.50%
Estimated General Fund appropriation needed to fund K- 12 education based on EPS model				\$ 753,227,985	\$ 817,534,192
Estimated General Fund appropriation needed to fund K- 12 education based on current funding model (assumes 6% growth per year)				\$ 770,245,312	\$ 793,100,139
Net General Fund Appropriation (Deappropriation) required to fund EPS model vs. current funding formula				\$ (17,017,327)	\$ 24,434,053

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* No adjustment in fiscal year 2003-04 and fiscal year 2004-05