

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1954

DATE: 4-11-06

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Reported by:

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
122ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 751, L.D. 1954, Bill, "An Act To Invest in the Future of Maine Citizens"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

PART A

Sec. A-1. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 758, §2, is amended to read:

2. Academic standing. The Unless granted a waiver by the eligible institution, the student is maintaining a minimum secondary school grade point average of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0, or the equivalent of a "B" average, as determined by the school unit;

Sec. A-2. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§§4 and 5, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 758, §2, are amended to read:

4. School approval. The school unit approves; and

5. Parental approval. The student's parent approves; and

Sec. A-3. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Recommendation. The student has received a recommendation to take a postsecondary course or courses at an eligible institution from the student's school administration or one of the student's secondary school teachers following an assessment of the student by the school administration.

Sec. A-4. 20-A MRSA §4772-A, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 495, §1, is amended to read:

2. Recommendation. Has received a recommendation to take a postsecondary course or courses at an eligible institution from the student's school administration or from a teacher at the student's school following an assessment of the student by the school administration; and

Sec. A-5. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Courses for credit at eligible postsecondary institutions. The commissioner may pay costs for secondary students to take postsecondary courses at eligible institutions.

PART B

Sec. B-1. 20-A MRSA c. 318 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 318

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

§8901. After-school Program Fund; standards; approval

The After-school Program Fund, referred to in this chapter as "the program fund," is established to encourage the facilitation of high-quality after-school programs in school administrative units throughout the State. The commissioner shall administer the program fund within the department. Standards and approval for the allocation and use of program fund money are as follows.

1. Standards. The commissioner shall establish standards consistent with the basic school approval requirements for after-school programs offered at elementary or secondary schools in the State. In establishing standards for after-school programs, the commissioner may also consider the requirements of the 21st Century Communities Learning Centers program authorized under Title IV, Part B of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 United States Code, Chapter 70.

2 2. Approval. An after-school program may be offered by a
3 school administrative unit with the approval of the commissioner.
4 The commissioner may inspect an after-school program, after which
5 the commissioner shall approve and grant a certificate to a
6 school that maintains approval standards. The expense of
7 inspection must be paid by the department.

8 §8902. Program fund grants; eligibility; calculation

10 1. Eligibility. To receive program fund money calculated
11 pursuant to subsection 2, the school administrative unit must be
12 in compliance with any applicable standards and program
13 requirements for after-school programs established by the
14 commissioner pursuant to section 8901.

16 2. Program fund grants; calculation. The commissioner
17 shall calculate one amount of the program fund money that may be
18 made available as a grant to the elementary school level and
19 middle school level and another amount of program fund money that
20 may be made available as a grant to the high school level in
21 accordance with the following.

22 A. For fiscal year 2006-07, the commissioner shall establish
23 a per-pupil amount for program fund grants.

24 B. For fiscal year 2007-08 and each subsequent year, the
25 commissioner shall recalculate the per-pupil amount by using
26 the amount calculated under paragraph A as a base and
27 adjusting for appropriate trends in the Consumer Price Index
28 or other comparable index.

29 3. Budget recommendation. Beginning in fiscal year 2006-07
30 and prior to December 15th of each year, the commissioner shall
31 recommend to the Governor and to the Department of Administrative
32 and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget the funding levels
33 for the program fund for payment in the next fiscal year. The
34 commissioner shall include these funding levels in the
35 department's request to the Legislature for appropriations from
36 the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

37 4. Appropriations. The commissioner shall allocate funds
38 appropriated by the Legislature to carry out the purposes of this
39 chapter as grants to eligible school administrative units.

40 §8903. Report

41 The department shall report by June 30, 2007 and annually
42 thereafter to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
43 having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs on the
44 number of school administrative units participating in an
45 after-school program, the nature of the after-school programs
46 and the amount of program fund money allocated to each school
47 administrative unit.

receiving money, the amount of money distributed and the number of children participating in an after-school program.

§8904. Rules

The commissioner shall adopt rules for the standards, approval and administration of the program fund, including the establishment of program fund requirements and specifications and procedures for the application and distribution of available funds, and to otherwise carry out the purpose of this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. B-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Support Systems 0837

Initiative: Provides additional ongoing funds for the expansion of the postsecondary enrollment of eligible secondary school students in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 208-A.

GENERAL FUND	2005-06	2006-07
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
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GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500,000

After-school Program Fund NEW

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for the establishment of an after-school program fund to provide grants to eligible school administrative units.

GENERAL FUND	2005-06	2006-07
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
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GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500,000

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2005-06	2006-07
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,000,000
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DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,000,000'

SUMMARY

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This amendment strikes and replaces the bill to accomplish the following.

1. Part A amends the eligibility criteria of the early college program for secondary school students. It provides that a student may take a postsecondary course if the student receives a recommendation from the student's school administration or from a teacher at the student's school. It also provides that the Commissioner of Education may pay for costs for students to take postsecondary courses at eligible institutions. All of the changes in Part A duplicate Public Law 2005, chapter 519, Part XX, which was enacted March 29, 2006. The current law now includes the provisions for the early college programs for secondary school students that are included in this amendment, and incorporates all of the statutory changes proposed in this amendment.

2. Part B establishes the After-school Program Fund as an ongoing program to be implemented and administered by the Department of Education. The amendment authorizes the Commissioner of Education to establish standards and approval procedures for the program fund, including the adoption of rules to implement the program fund.

3. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1954

LR 2870(02)

An Act To Invest in the Future of Maine Citizens

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	2005-06	2006-07	Projections 2007-08	Projections 2008-09
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations totaling \$1,000,000 for the Department of Education beginning in fiscal year 2006-07. Of this amount, \$500,000 is to establish the After-school Program Fund to encourage the facilitation of high-quality after-school programs in school administrative units throughout the State and \$500,000 is for the Support Systems program for expansion of the postsecondary enrollment of eligible secondary school students. Currently, \$75,000 per year is already appropriated to the Support Systems program within the Department of Education to enable secondary school students to take postsecondary courses at eligible institutions.

Additional costs to the Department of Education associated with rulemaking and preparing the required report can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.