

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 448

S.P. 149

January 30, 2007

An Act To Improve Equity in School Funding

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RAYE of Washington.

Cosponsored by Representative SUTHERLAND of Chapman and

Senators: MILLS of Somerset, NUTTING of Androscoggin, SHERMAN of Aroostook, WESTON of Waldo, Representatives: CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth, EDGECOMB of Caribou, McFADDEN of Dennysville, PINGREE of North Haven.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15682**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. AAAA, §9, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **§15682. Regional adjustment**

5 The commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation
6 for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional
7 adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs or teacher
8 housing costs within labor market areas in the State, as computed by a statewide
9 education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary
10 and benefits costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary and benefit costs of other
11 school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679.

12 **1. Regional adjustment beginning in fiscal year 2007-08.** Beginning in fiscal year
13 2007-08, the commissioner shall make a regional adjustment according to the provisions
14 of this subsection.

15 A. A school administrative unit whose labor market area teacher salary costs are
16 computed to be 1.0 or greater receives a regional adjustment based on the regional
17 differences in teacher salary costs.

18 B. A school administrative unit whose labor market area teacher salary costs are
19 computed to be less than 1.0 receives a regional adjustment based on the regional
20 differences in teacher salary costs or the regional differences in teacher housing costs,
21 whichever is greater.

22 **2. Appeals.** The commissioner shall develop an appeals procedure for the regional
23 adjustment under subsection 1 calculated for school administrative units beginning in
24 fiscal year 2007-08.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2007-08, the regional adjustment
27 provided to school administrative units under the Essential Programs and Services
28 Funding Act must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs or the
29 regional differences in teacher housing costs within labor market areas in the State,
30 whichever provides a greater regional adjustment to the school administrative unit.