

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1025

S.P. 342

March 6, 2007

An Act To Reform Essential Programs and Services

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 MILLS of Somerset.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15690-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§15690-A. Cost components; benchmarks; local vote**

4 **1. Summary of essential programs and services.** The department shall develop a
5 clear and logically organized description of how all cost components of essential
6 programs and services are calculated pursuant to this chapter. The department shall post
7 this description on its publicly accessible website.

8 **2. Benchmarks.** The department shall develop a methodology that allows each
9 major component of a school administrative unit's budget to be readily compared with
10 the comparable component of the unit's required contribution established under section
11 15688, subsection 3-A.

12 **3. Local vote.** In addition to or as part of the local approval requirements of this
13 chapter, a school administrative unit shall, in accordance with rules adopted by the
14 department, provide an opportunity for voters within the unit to vote separately on each
15 major component of the unit's budget as it compares with the comparable component of
16 the unit's required contribution established under section 15688, subsection 3-A. Rules
17 adopted by the department under this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in
18 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill accomplishes the following:

21 1. It directs the Department of Education to develop and post on its publicly
22 accessible website a clear and logically organized description of how the cost of the
23 components of essential programs and services is calculated;

24 2. It directs the department to develop a methodology that allows each major
25 component of a school administrative unit's budget to be readily compared with the
26 comparable component of the unit's required contribution established under the Maine
27 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688, subsection 3-A; and

28 3. It requires a school administrative unit, in accordance with rules adopted by the
29 Department of Education, to provide an opportunity for voters within the unit to vote
30 separately on each major component of the unit's budget as it compares with the
31 comparable component of the unit's required contribution established under Title 20-A,
32 section 15688, subsection 3-A.