

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 2028

H.P. 1412

House of Representatives, December 21, 2007

**An Act To Equalize the Tax Burden for Education across
Municipalities of the Lower Kennebec River Region Authorized To
Form a Regional School Unit Pursuant to Private and Special Law
2007, Chapter 25**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2007. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERCY of Phippsburg.
Cosponsored by Senator BENOIT of Sagadahoc and
Representative: WATSON of Bath.

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

2 **Sec. 1. P&SL 2007, c. 25, §11-A** is enacted to read:

3 **Sec. 11-A. Equalized tax burdens.** In any year in which a municipality in the
4 district anticipates a year-to-year reduction in local tax burden for schools, it shall raise
5 an amount equal to 1/2 of those anticipated tax reductions and make that amount
6 available for redistribution to municipalities in the district that anticipate year-to-year
7 local tax increases for education. Such funds must be distributed based 1/3 on valuation,
8 1/3 on student population and 1/3 on resident population among those qualifying
9 municipalities that anticipate increases until each of those municipalities anticipates no
10 change from the prior year or until funds are exhausted. Municipalities receiving funds
11 under this mechanism shall apply all of those funds to their contribution to the district,
12 thereby reducing or eliminating the overall tax increase for schools to their citizens.

13 In no case may more funds from tax reductions be captured for redistribution
14 according to this section than are needed to eliminate tax increases for schools in all the
15 other municipalities of the district.

16 **Sec. 2. P&SL 2007, c. 25, §18-A** is enacted to read:

17 **Sec. 18-A. School choice; municipality joining after district formation.**
18 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the district, in order to offer consistent
19 options to all of its students, may opt to limit school choice for students of municipalities
20 that join the district after its initial date of consolidation, even if the municipality offered
21 choice prior to the municipality's joining the district. The board of directors for the
22 district may authorize grandfathering or any other legal method to ease the transition of
23 the students and families of such later-joining municipalities.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill enacts a mechanism to equalize the tax burden for education across
26 municipalities authorized to regionalize in the lower Kennebec River area pursuant to
27 Private and Special Law 2007, chapter 25. The bill also authorizes limiting choice for
28 students from municipalities that join the district after the initial date of consolidation.