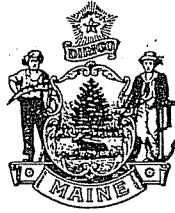


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



STATE LAW LIBRARY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 190

H.P. 155

House of Representatives, January 21, 2009

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Convene a
Stakeholders Group To Analyze the School Funding Formula**

(EMERGENCY)

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative JOHNSON of Greenville.
Cosponsored by Senator SMITH of Piscataquis and
Representatives: BROWNE of Vassalboro, CRAY of Palmyra, GIFFORD of Lincoln, LEWIN
of Eliot, PINKHAM of Lexington Township, SARTY of Denmark, SCHATZ of Blue Hill,
TILTON of Harrington.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the school funding formula that provides for state aid to local public
4 education is inequitable; and

5 **Whereas,** the school funding formula is responsible for unjustified funding shifts
6 from many communities to other communities; and

7 **Whereas,** it is necessary to rectify this inequity as soon as possible; and

8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 **Sec. 1. Stakeholders group. Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall
13 convene a stakeholders group to analyze the school funding formula. The stakeholders
14 group must include participation of the Maine School Superintendents Association, the
15 Maine Principals' Association, the Maine Education Association, special education
16 experts, the University of Maine and members of the Senate appointed by the President of
17 the Senate and members from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House of Representatives. The Department of Education shall submit an analysis
19 plan and a proposed timeline to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural
20 Affairs by May 1, 2009; and be it further

21 **Sec. 2. Issues to review. Resolved:** That the stakeholders group convened
22 under section 1 shall identify:

23 1. The funding shifts caused by the school funding formula; and

24 2. How the funding shifts identified in subsection 1 support overall educational
25 excellence and affect disadvantaged segments of the public education system by using as
26 guides the Maine Educational Assessment results, annual yearly performance data and
27 high-performing school analysis as well as other data selected by the Department of
28 Education for rural and urban schools; and be it further

29 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall submit a
30 report with its recommended changes to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
31 Cultural Affairs by November 1, 2009. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and
32 Cultural Affairs may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 124th
33 Legislature based on the report.

34 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
35 legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

This resolve directs the Department of Education to convene a stakeholders group to analyze the school funding formula. The department must present a plan and timeline to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by May 1, 2009 and a report with its recommendations by November 1, 2009. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.