

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 724, L.D. 1049, Bill, "An Act To Encourage Cooperation among School Administrative Units"

Amend the bill in section 2 in §2513 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 3, lines 16 to 20 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'2. Approval. If the commissioner finds that an application under section 2512 contains the information required to be submitted pursuant to subsection 1, the commissioner shall notify each school administrative unit participating in the cooperative agreement that, pending ratification as set forth in subsection 3, the cooperative is approved pursuant to this chapter. The commissioner shall keep a register of cooperatives that have been approved and ratified pursuant to this chapter.'

Amend the bill in section 2 in §2513 by striking out all of subsection 3 (page 3, lines 21 to 24 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'3. School board ratification. If the commissioner finds that an application for a cooperative is approved pursuant to subsection 2, the cooperative must be approved by a majority of the members of the school board of each school administrative unit involved in the cooperative before the cooperative becomes effective.'

Amend the bill in section 2 in §2514 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 3, lines 30 to 32 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'2. Renewal of cooperative. A cooperative may be renewed only upon ratification by a majority of the members of each school board involved in the cooperative in accordance with this chapter.'

SUMMARY

This amendment removes the provisions in the bill that establish a limit of 20 cooperative agreements that may be in operation at any time. The amendment also provides that, if the Commissioner of Education finds that an application for a cooperative agreement contains the information required to be included in the application, the commissioner shall notify the school administrative units participating in the

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1 cooperative agreement that the application is approved, pending a ratification vote by
2 each of the school boards of the participating school administrative units. The
3 amendment further provides that, instead of requiring reapplication to the commissioner
4 in addition to the vote as proposed in the bill, a cooperative agreement may be renewed
5 upon a ratification vote to renew the cooperative agreement by each of the school boards
6 of the participating school administrative units.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See Attached)



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LD 1049

LR 1108(02)

An Act To Encourage Cooperation among School Administrative Units

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential future biennium savings - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation may result in savings in certain educational functions or support services to school administrative units that participate in the regional education cooperatives beginning in fiscal year 2009-10. To the extent that these savings serve to lower the total state and local cost of K-12 public education, the State's share of that cost may also be reduced. The amount can not be determined at this time.