

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1126

S.P. 417

In Senate, March 25, 2009

**An Act To Limit the Scope of Miscellaneous Costs within the
General Purpose Aid for Local Schools Appropriation**

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 TRAHAN of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative MCKANE of Newcastle and
Senators: NUTTING of Androscoggin, RAYE of Washington, WESTON of Waldo,
Representatives: FINCH of Fairfield, PENDLETON of Scarborough, PIEH of Bremen,
RICHARDSON of Carmel, SCHATZ of Blue Hill.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §61
3 and affected by §§72 and 74 and c. 12, Pt. WW, §18, is repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§10**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. W,
5 §1, is repealed.

6 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§12-A**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt.
7 C, §11, is further amended to read:

8 **12-A. Learning through technology.** The commissioner may pay costs attributed
9 to staff support and system maintenance for a program that promotes learning through
10 technology. ~~A transfer of All Other funds from the General Purpose Aid for Local~~
11 ~~Schools account to Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Learning~~
12 ~~Through Technology General Fund nonlapsing account sufficient to support the Personal~~
13 ~~Services and All Other costs of one Education Team and Policy Director position, 2~~
14 ~~Education Specialist III positions, one Planning and Research Associate I position, one~~
15 ~~Director of Special Projects position, one Education Specialist II position, the General~~
16 ~~Fund share of one Education Specialist II position and the agreement that provides one-~~
17 ~~to-one wireless computers for 7th grade, 8th grade and high school students and educators~~
18 ~~may occur annually by financial order upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer~~
19 ~~and approval of the Governor.~~

20 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§16**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. C,
21 §12, is repealed.

22 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§17**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. W,
23 §3, is repealed.

24 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§18**, as reallocated by RR 2007, c. 2, §6, is
25 repealed.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill amends the law concerning the various elements of the "miscellaneous
28 costs" component of the general purpose aid for local schools appropriation, or GPA
29 appropriation. The premise of the bill is that the GPA appropriation should be either a
30 general purpose subsidy to local schools or a state expenditure that provides direct
31 educational services to students who would otherwise be served by the State's public
32 elementary or secondary schools. The bill eliminates the Commissioner of Education's
33 authority to use GPA funds to pay the personnel costs for a range of state employees who
34 work for the Department of Education and provide only indirect support to the public
35 education system. The bill eliminates a similar authority to use GPA funds to pay for the
36 personnel costs of 3 teachers employed by the Department of Corrections. The bill also
37 eliminates the authority to use GPA funds to pay for general education research
38 conducted by the University of Maine, but it retains the authority to use GPA funds to

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cover a contract with the university to monitor and update the essential programs and services school funding model.