

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 1131

S.P. 392

In Senate, March 21, 2013

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**An Act To Improve Professional Development Opportunities for  
Teachers and Other Public School Employees**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CAIN of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Representative NELSON of Falmouth and  
Senators: President ALFOND of Cumberland, JOHNSON of Lincoln, MILLETT of  
Cumberland, Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, KORNFIELD of Bangor,  
MacDONALD of Boothbay, MAKER of Calais, POULIOT of Augusta.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §264** is enacted to read:

3 **§264. Professional development**

4 **1. Fund.** The Fund for Professional Development in Education, referred to in this  
5 section as "the fund," is established for the purpose of providing funding to school  
6 administrative units to cover a portion of the cost of professional development for  
7 teachers and other education professionals.

8 **2. Professional development opportunities.** The commissioner shall establish a  
9 system to support school administrative units in the provision of up to 10 days per year of  
10 professional development for teachers and other education professionals. The system  
11 must:

12 **A.** Include a process for school administrative units to request from the  
13 commissioner funding from the fund to cover the cost of professional development  
14 for teachers and other education professionals; and

15 **B.** Provide that the commissioner shall approve funding from the fund to a school  
16 administrative unit that demonstrates that:

17 (1) The professional development activities for which funding is requested will  
18 improve the ability of teachers and other education professionals in the school  
19 administrative unit to teach or provide other educational services for students in  
20 the school administrative unit's schools;

21 (2) The school administrative unit will cover from local funds at least 50% of the  
22 cost of the professional development for which funding is requested; and

23 (3) The school administrative unit has entered into an agreement with teachers  
24 and other education professionals in the school administrative unit regarding the  
25 purpose, dates, times and program components of the professional development  
26 activities for which funding is sought.

27 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
28 allocations are made.

29 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

30 **Professional Development 0859**

31 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to school administrative units for a portion of the cost  
32 of professional development for teachers and other education professionals.

33			
34	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
35	All Other	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
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37	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

**SUMMARY**

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This bill establishes the Fund for Professional Development in Education with an appropriation of \$2,000,000 to support up to 50% of the cost of up to an additional 10 days annually of professional development for teachers and other education professionals. The fund is administered by the Commissioner of Education, who must approve funding if a school administrative unit demonstrates that the professional development for which funding is requested will improve teaching or educational services provided to students, the school administrative unit will provide at least 50% of the funding and the school administrative unit has entered into an agreement with the teachers regarding the timing and components of the professional development activities.