

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1641

H.P. 1117

House of Representatives, March 9, 2016

An Act To Establish a Commission To Reform Public Education Funding and Improve Student Performance in Maine and Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of the Department of Education and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FREDETTE of Newport. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Senator ALFOND of Cumberland and
Representative: Speaker EVES of North Berwick, Senator: President THIBODEAU of Waldo.

- 1 E. A person who was named Maine Teacher of the Year on or after January 1, 2006,
2 designated by the Maine Education Association;
- 3 F. A person who is serving on the Maine Charter School Commission established in
4 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 10-D, designated by
5 the chair of the Maine Charter School Commission;
- 6 G. A person who is a teacher or administrator at one of the State's career and
7 technical education centers, designated by Maine Administrators of Career and
8 Technical Education;
- 9 H. A person designated by the Maine School Management Association;
- 10 I. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;
- 11 J. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's
12 designee; and
- 13 K. Two members of the public, appointed by the Governor, at least one of whom has
14 prior work experience in a municipal management role.
- 15 **2. Vacancies; quorum.** In the event of a vacancy on the commission, the
16 commissioner shall select a replacement member in the same manner as the original
17 selection set forth in subsection 1. A quorum consists of a majority of the nonvacant
18 seats on the commission.
- 19 **3. Meetings; duties.** The commission shall meet at least 6 times each year in 2016
20 and in 2017. In order to identify solutions to lower the cost of public education and
21 improve student performance, the commission shall collect and analyze data from all
22 public secondary and postsecondary education units in the State that receive state
23 funding. In conducting its review and analysis, the commission may:
- 24 A. Evaluate the success and shortcomings of the current funding formula for
25 kindergarten to grade 12 education and propose changes to improve the funding
26 formula;
- 27 B. Identify the causes of increased per-pupil education costs and develop proposals
28 to help local school districts contain increasing costs;
- 29 C. Examine the State's special education spending, including its impact on school
30 administrative units, and develop proposals to ensure the State's special education
31 spending addresses the State's needs;
- 32 D. Identify trends and disparities across the State in student performance in
33 kindergarten to grade 12 and develop recommendations for improvement;
- 34 E. Identify best practices for integrating technology into teaching and learning and
35 develop proposals for statewide implementation of the best practices;
- 36 F. Review the existing laws governing the process of school administrative unit
37 consolidation and withdrawal and identify improvements that will help lower costs
38 and improve outcomes for school administrative units;
- 39 G. Evaluate teacher compensation throughout the State for adequacy and
40 competitiveness and propose changes, as necessary;

- 1 H. Identify state and federal mandates for school administrative units that result in
2 increased cost to local property tax payers and propose options for how these
3 mandates might be addressed;
- 4 I. Assist school board and municipal leaders in identifying opportunities to leverage
5 state or regional resources in order to reduce local costs;
- 6 J. Review the use of federal funds by school administrative units and identify
7 challenges associated with requirements of those funding sources;
- 8 K. Examine the preparedness of students in the State to matriculate to the University
9 of Maine System and the Maine Community College System and develop proposals
10 to enhance the ability of public education from kindergarten to higher education to
11 prepare students in the State for the modern workforce;
- 12 L. Evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of state funding provided to the Maine
13 Community College System and the University of Maine System, the financial needs
14 of each system and each system's tuition rates in order to develop a long-term
15 strategy for the financial sustainability of each system;
- 16 M. Identify opportunities to partner with the private sector and private philanthropic
17 organizations to identify opportunities to access additional resources to reduce the
18 cost of public education and improve student performance in the State; and
- 19 N. Identify and evaluate additional issues that the commission determines might
20 reduce the cost of education and improve student performance.

21 **4. Staff assistance; funding.** The Department of Education shall provide necessary
22 staffing services to the commission. Funding for the commission must be provided from
23 existing resources of the Department of Education.

24 **5. Report; legislation.** By January 10, 2017 and January 10, 2018, the
25 commissioner shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the
26 Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters a report of the commission that
27 includes findings and recommendations for action to reform public education funding and
28 improve student performance in the State. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, upon
29 submission of each report of the commission, the commissioner is authorized to submit to
30 the Legislature a bill to implement the commission's recommendations.

31 **6. Expiration of commission.** The commission is authorized until July 31, 2018.

32 **PART B**

33 **Sec. B-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; general**
34 **purpose aid for local schools; fiscal year 2016-17.** Notwithstanding any other
35 provision of law, the State Controller shall transfer \$15,000,000 from the General Fund
36 unappropriated surplus to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General
37 Fund account within the Department of Education no later than June 30, 2017. The State
38 Budget Officer, upon approval of the Governor, shall allot the funds in this Part to the
39 General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund account within the
40 Department of Education by financial order in fiscal year 2016-17. This transfer is not
41 considered an adjustment to appropriations.

1 **PART C**

2 **Sec. C-1. 20-A MRSA §13007, sub-§2, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 702, §1,
3 is amended to read:

4 D. Report and pay no more than \$150,000 in fiscal year 2012-13, no more than
5 \$240,000 in fiscal year 2013-14 and no more than \$335,000 in fiscal year 2014-15
6 and each fiscal year thereafter from fees collected pursuant to subsection 1 to the
7 Treasurer of State to be credited to the National Board Certification Salary
8 Supplement Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of
9 Education.

10 **Sec. C-2. 20-A MRSA §15671, sub-§1-A**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt.
11 C, §4, is further amended to read:

12 **1-A. State funding for kindergarten to grade 12 public education.** Beginning in
13 fiscal year ~~2016-17~~ 2017-18 and in each fiscal year thereafter until the state share
14 percentage of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12
15 reaches 55% pursuant to subsection 7, paragraph B, the State shall increase the state share
16 percentage of the funding for the cost of essential programs and services by at least one
17 percentage point per year over the percentage of the previous year and the department, in
18 allocating funds, shall make this increase in funding a priority. For those fiscal years that
19 the funding appropriated or allocated for the cost of essential programs and services is not
20 sufficient to increase the state share percentage of the total cost of funding public
21 education from kindergarten to grade 12 by at least one percentage point, no new
22 programs or initiatives may be established for kindergarten to grade 12 public education
23 within the department that would divert funds that would otherwise be distributed as
24 general purpose aid for local schools pursuant to subsection 5.

25 **Sec. C-3. 20-A MRSA §15671, sub-§7, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt.
26 C, §6, is further amended to read:

27 B. The annual targets for the state share percentage of the statewide adjusted total
28 cost of the components of essential programs and services are as follows.

- 29 (1) For fiscal year 2005-06, the target is 52.6%.
30 (2) For fiscal year 2006-07, the target is 53.86%.
31 (3) For fiscal year 2007-08, the target is 53.51%.
32 (4) For fiscal year 2008-09, the target is 52.52%.
33 (5) For fiscal year 2009-10, the target is 48.93%.
34 (6) For fiscal year 2010-11, the target is 45.84%.
35 (7) For fiscal year 2011-12, the target is 46.02%.
36 (8) For fiscal year 2012-13, the target is 45.87%.
37 (9) For fiscal year 2013-14, the target is 47.29%.
38 (10) For fiscal year 2014-15, the target is 46.80%.

1 (11) For fiscal year 2015-16, the target is 47.54%.

2 (12) For fiscal year 2016-17, the target is 48.10%.

3 **Sec. C-4. 20-A MRSA §15671, sub-§7, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt.
4 C, §7, is further amended to read:

5 C. Beginning in fiscal year 2011-12, the annual targets for the state share percentage
6 of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 including
7 the cost of the components of essential programs and services plus the state
8 contributions to teacher retirement, retired teachers' health insurance and retired
9 teachers' life insurance are as follows.

10 (1) For fiscal year 2011-12, the target is 49.47%.

11 (2) For fiscal year 2012-13, the target is 49.35%.

12 (3) For fiscal year 2013-14, the target is 50.44%.

13 (4) For fiscal year 2014-15, the target is 50.13%.

14 (5) For fiscal year 2015-16, the target is 50.08%.

15 (6) For fiscal year 2016-17 ~~and succeeding years~~, the target is ~~55%~~ 50.79%.

16 (7) For fiscal year 2017-18 and succeeding years, the target is 55%.

17 **Sec. C-5. 20-A MRSA §15671-A, sub-§2, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267,
18 Pt. C, §8, is further amended to read:

19 B. For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2005, the commissioner shall
20 calculate the full-value education mill rate that is required to raise the statewide total
21 local share. The full-value education mill rate is calculated for each fiscal year by
22 dividing the applicable statewide total local share by the applicable statewide
23 valuation. The full-value education mill rate must decline over the period from fiscal
24 year 2005-06 to fiscal year 2008-09 and may not exceed 9.0 mills in fiscal year 2005-
25 06 and may not exceed 8.0 mills in fiscal year 2008-09. The full-value education mill
26 rate must be applied according to section 15688, subsection 3-A, paragraph A to
27 determine a municipality's local cost share expectation. Full-value education mill
28 rates must be derived according to the following schedule.

29 (1) For the 2005 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
30 amount necessary to result in a 47.4% statewide total local share in fiscal year
31 2005-06.

32 (2) For the 2006 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
33 amount necessary to result in a 46.14% statewide total local share in fiscal year
34 2006-07.

35 (3) For the 2007 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
36 amount necessary to result in a 46.49% statewide total local share in fiscal year
37 2007-08.

1 (4) For the 2008 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
2 amount necessary to result in a 47.48% statewide total local share in fiscal year
3 2008-09.

4 (4-A) For the 2009 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
5 amount necessary to result in a 51.07% statewide total local share in fiscal year
6 2009-10.

7 (4-B) For the 2010 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
8 amount necessary to result in a 54.16% statewide total local share in fiscal year
9 2010-11.

10 (4-C) For the 2011 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
11 amount necessary to result in a 53.98% statewide total local share in fiscal year
12 2011-12.

13 (5) For the 2012 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
14 amount necessary to result in a 54.13% statewide total local share in fiscal year
15 2012-13.

16 (6) For the 2013 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
17 amount necessary to result in a 52.71% statewide total local share in fiscal year
18 2013-14.

19 (7) For the 2014 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
20 amount necessary to result in a 53.20% statewide total local share in fiscal year
21 2014-15.

22 (8) For the 2015 property tax year, the full-value education mill rate is the
23 amount necessary to result in a 52.46% statewide total local share in fiscal year
24 2015-16.

25 (9) For the 2016 property tax year ~~and subsequent tax years~~, the full-value
26 education mill rate is the amount necessary to result in a ~~45%~~ 51.90% statewide
27 total local share in fiscal year 2016-17 ~~and after~~.

28 (10) For the 2017 property tax year and subsequent tax years, the full-value
29 education mill rate is the amount necessary to result in a 45% statewide total
30 local share in fiscal year 2017-18 and after.

31 **Sec. C-6. 20-A MRSA §15686-A, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt.
32 AAAA, §12, is amended to read:

33 **3. Components to be reviewed beginning in fiscal years 2008-09 and 2016-17.**
34 Beginning in fiscal year 2008-09, and at least every 3 years thereafter, the commissioner,
35 using information provided by a statewide education policy research institute, shall
36 review the essential programs and services professional development, student assessment,
37 technology, leadership support, cocurricular and extra-curricular activities ~~and~~, supplies
38 and equipment and, beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, charter school components under
39 this chapter and shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
40 jurisdiction over education matters any recommended changes for legislative action.

1 **Sec. C-7. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 368, Pt.
2 C, §13, is further amended to read:

3 B. The school administrative unit's special education costs as calculated pursuant to
4 section 15681-A, subsection 2 multiplied by the following transition percentages:

5 (1) In fiscal year 2005-06, 84%;

6 (2) In fiscal year 2006-07, 84%;

7 (3) In fiscal year 2007-08, 84%;

8 (4) In fiscal year 2008-09, 45%;

9 (5) In fiscal year 2009-10, 40% including funds provided under Title XIV of the
10 State Fiscal Stabilization Fund of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
11 of 2009;

12 (6) In fiscal year 2010-11, 35% including funds provided under Title XIV of the
13 State Fiscal Stabilization Fund of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
14 of 2009;

15 (7) In fiscal year 2011-12, 30%;

16 (8) In fiscal year 2012-13, 30%;

17 (9) In fiscal year 2013-14, 35%; ~~and~~

18 (10) In fiscal year 2014-15 ~~and succeeding years~~, 30%;

19 (11) In fiscal year 2015-16, 30%;

20 (12) In fiscal year 2016-17, 30%;

21 (13) In fiscal year 2017-18, 35%;

22 (14) In fiscal year 2018-19, 40%;

23 (15) In fiscal year 2019-20, 45%; and

24 (16) In fiscal year 2020-21 and succeeding years, 50%.

25 **Sec. C-8. 20-A MRSA §15689-C, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 275, §1,
26 is further amended to read:

27 **1. Annual recommendation.** Prior to ~~December 15th~~ January 20th of each fiscal
28 year, the commissioner, with the approval of the state board, shall recommend to the
29 Governor and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the
30 Budget the funding levels that the commissioner recommends for the purposes of this
31 chapter. Beginning with the recommendations due in 2009, the commissioner's annual
32 recommendations must be in the form and manner described in subsection 4.

33 **Sec. C-9. 20-A MRSA §15690, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt.
34 C, §15, is further amended to read:

35 C. The state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to
36 grade 12 as described in section 15688, excluding state-funded debt service for each

1 school administrative unit, is limited to the same proportion as the local school
 2 administrative unit raises of its required contribution to the total cost of education as
 3 described in section 15688, excluding state-funded debt service costs. ~~For school~~
 4 ~~administrative units that annually demonstrate savings by purchasing supplies using~~
 5 ~~an electronic bidding forum, the commissioner may suspend all or a portion of any~~
 6 ~~adjustment to the unit's state contribution pursuant to this paragraph.~~

7 **Sec. C-10. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267,
 8 Pt. C, §15, is further amended to read:

9 A. The state board may approve projects as long as no project approval will cause
 10 debt service costs, as defined in section 15672, subsection 2-A, paragraph A and
 11 pursuant to Resolve 2007, chapter 223, section 4, to exceed the maximum limits
 12 specified in Table 1 in subsequent fiscal years.

		Table 1	
		Major Capital	Integrated, Consolidated Secondary and Postsecondary Project
Fiscal year	Maximum Debt Service Limit	Maximum Debt Service Limit	
18	1990	\$ 48,000,000	
19	1991	\$ 57,000,000	
20	1992	\$ 65,000,000	
21	1993	\$ 67,000,000	
22	1994	\$ 67,000,000	
23	1995	\$ 67,000,000	
24	1996	\$ 67,000,000	
25	1997	\$ 67,000,000	
26	1998	\$ 67,000,000	
27	1999	\$ 69,000,000	
28	2000	\$ 72,000,000	
29	2001	\$ 74,000,000	
30	2002	\$ 74,000,000	
31	2003	\$ 80,000,000	
32	2004	\$ 80,000,000	
33	2005	\$ 84,000,000	
34	2006	\$ 90,000,000	
35	2007	\$ 96,000,000	
36	2008	\$100,000,000	
37	2009	\$104,000,000	
38	2010	\$108,000,000	
39	2011	\$126,000,000	
40	2012	\$116,000,000	
41	2013	\$116,000,000	
42	2014	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
43	2015	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
44	2016	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
45	2017	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000

1	<u>2018</u>	<u>\$126,000,000</u>	<u>\$10,000,000</u>
2	<u>2019</u>	<u>\$126,000,000</u>	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

3 **Sec. C-11. Mill expectation.** The mill expectation pursuant to the Maine Revised
4 Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671-A for fiscal year 2016-17 is 8.30.

5 **Sec. C-12. Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to**
6 **grade 12.** The total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for
7 fiscal year 2016-17 is as follows:

8		2016-17
9		TOTAL
10	Total Operating Allocation	
11		
12	Total operating allocation pursuant to the Maine Revised	\$1,882,494,984
13	Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683 and total other	
14	subsidizable costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section	
15	15681-A	
16		
17	Total Debt Service Allocation	
18		
19	Total debt service allocation pursuant to the Maine	\$88,428,148
20	Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683-A	
21		
22	Enhancing Student Performance and Opportunity	\$4,397,105
23		
24	Total Adjustments and Miscellaneous Costs	
25		
26	Total adjustments and miscellaneous costs pursuant to	\$67,138,019
27	the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, sections 15689	
28	and 15689-A	
29		
30	Total Normal Cost of Teacher Retirement	\$38,357,583
31		
32	Total Cost of Funding Public Education from	<hr/>
33	Kindergarten to Grade 12	
34		
35	Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten	\$2,080,815,839
36	to grade 12 for fiscal year 2016-17 pursuant to the Maine	
37	Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B	
38		

1	Total cost of the state contribution to teacher retirement,	\$156,985,489
2	teacher retirement health insurance and teacher	
3	retirement life insurance for fiscal year 2016-17 pursuant	
4	to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapters 421 and	
5	423 excluding the normal cost of teacher retirement	
6		
7	Adjustment pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title	\$42,200,635
8	20-A, section 15683, subsection 2	
9		
10	Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten	\$2,280,001,963
11	to grade 12	

12 **Sec. C-13. Local and state contributions to total cost of funding public**
13 **education from kindergarten to grade 12.** The local contribution and the state
14 contribution appropriation provided for general purpose aid for local schools for the fiscal
15 year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017 is calculated as follows:

16		2016-17	2016-17
17		LOCAL	STATE
18	Local and State Contributions to the		
19	Total Cost of Funding Public Education		
20	from Kindergarten to Grade 12		
21			
22	Local and state contributions to the total	\$1,079,854,324	\$1,000,961,515
23	cost of funding public education from		
24	kindergarten to grade 12 pursuant to the		
25	Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A,		
26	section 15683, subject to statewide		
27	distributions required by law		
28			
29	State contribution to the total cost of		\$156,985,489
30	teacher retirement, teacher retirement		
31	health insurance and teacher retirement		
32	life insurance for fiscal year 2016-17		
33	pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes,		
34	Title 5, chapters 421 and 423		
35			
36	State contribution to the total cost of		\$1,157,947,004
37	funding public education from		
38	kindergarten to grade 12		

39 **Sec. C-14. Authorization of payments.** If the State's continued obligation for
40 any individual component contained in those sections of this Part that set the total cost of
41 funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and the local and state
42 contributions for that purpose exceeds the level of funding provided for that component,

1 any unexpended balances occurring in other programs may be applied to avoid proration
2 of payments for any individual component. Any unexpended balances from this Part may
3 not lapse but must be carried forward for the same purpose.

4 **Sec. C-15. Limit of State's obligation.** Those sections of this Part that set the
5 total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and the local and
6 state contributions for that purpose may not be construed to require the State to provide
7 payments that exceed the appropriation of funds for general purpose aid for local schools
8 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017.

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

11 SUMMARY

12 Part A of the bill directs the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's
13 designee to convene, no later than May 1, 2016, a commission to reform public education
14 funding and improve student performance in the State. The Commissioner of Education is
15 directed to submit by January 10, 2017 and January 10, 2018 to the Governor and the
16 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters a
17 report of the commission that includes findings and recommendations for action to reform
18 public education funding and improve student performance in Maine. Notwithstanding
19 Joint Rule 353, the commissioner is authorized to submit to the Legislature a bill to
20 implement the commission's recommendations.

21 Part B requires the State Controller to transfer \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2016-17
22 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the General Purpose Aid for Local
23 Schools program, General Fund account within the Department of Education.

24 Part C establishes the total cost of education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal
25 year 2016-17, the state contribution and the annual target state share percentage. In
26 addition, Part C accomplishes the following.

27 1. Under current law, the Commissioner of Education may report and pay to the
28 Treasurer of State to be credited to the National Board Certification Salary Supplement
29 Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education no more
30 than \$335,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 from fees for the initial issuance of and renewal of
31 teacher, education specialist and administrator certificates. This Part extends that
32 limitation to each fiscal year beyond fiscal year 2014-15.

33 2. This Part changes from fiscal year 2016-17 to fiscal year 2017-18 when the State
34 must begin increasing the state share percentage of the funding for the cost of essential
35 programs and services by at least one percentage point per year over the percentage of the
36 previous year until the state share percentage of the total cost of funding public education
37 from kindergarten to grade 12 reaches 55%.

38 3. It adds, beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, charter schools to the list of essential
39 programs and services components to be reviewed.

1 4. It changes the deadline for the commissioner to make annual recommendations
2 regarding the funding levels for essential programs and services from prior to December
3 15th of each year to prior to January 20th of each fiscal year.

4 5. It strikes the provision of law that authorizes the commissioner, for school
5 administrative units that annually demonstrate savings by purchasing supplies using an
6 electronic bidding forum, to suspend all or a portion of the adjustment to the unit's state
7 contribution.



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1641

LR 2742(01)

An Act To Establish a Commission To Reform Public Education Funding and Improve Student Performance in Maine and Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of the Department of Education and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Rep. Fredette of Newport

Committee: Not Referred

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Legislative Cost/Study

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	Projections FY 2017-18	Projections FY 2018-19
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$0
Transfers				
General Fund	\$0	(\$15,000,000)	\$0	\$0

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$1,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$3,000 in fiscal year 2016-17. The Legislature's budget includes \$10,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$10,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 for legislative studies. Whether the amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Providing for a one-time transfer of \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund account within the Department of Education no later than June 30, 2017 will decrease the funds available in the General Fund for other purposes. The State Budget Officer, upon approval of the Governor, is authorized to allot these funds.

Additional costs to the Department of Education to provide staff support to the commission can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Additional costs to the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the State Board of Education to serve on the commission can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.