

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 468

H.P. 352

House of Representatives, January 29, 2019

**An Act To Require That the State Fund on an Ongoing Basis a
Minimum of 50 Percent of the Costs Associated with Public
Preschool Programs**

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: BABINE of Scarborough, BRENNAN of Portland, CAIAZZO of
Scarborough, CARNEY of Cape Elizabeth, COLLINGS of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland,
TERRY of Gorham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4254, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

3 **4. Second and subsequent years.** In each year a school administrative unit operates
4 an approved public preschool program, other than the year in which it receives start-up
5 funding in accordance with section 4271, the State must provide funding in accordance
6 with sections 15675 and 15681.

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15675, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 581, §8, is
8 further amended to read:

9 **3. Public preschool program to grade 2 students.** If a school administrative unit is
10 eligible to receive targeted funds for its public preschool to grade 2 program under
11 section 15681, then for each ~~public preschool program~~ kindergarten to grade 2 student the
12 unit receives an additional weight of .10 and for each public preschool program student
13 the unit receives a minimum of 50% of the per-pupil costs of the public preschool
14 program as established pursuant to section 15681, section 4, paragraph C.

15 A. For purposes of the additional weight or funds under this subsection, the count of
16 public preschool program to grade 2 students is calculated based on the number of
17 resident pupils in the most recent calendar year. Beginning with funding for the
18 2015-2016 school year, the pupil count for students 4 years of age and students 5
19 years of age attending public preschool programs must be based on the most recent
20 October 1st count prior to the allocation year.

21 B. Only school administrative units with public preschool to grade 2 programs
22 approved by the department are eligible for funds pursuant to this subsection or other
23 comparable index.

24 C. Funds provided pursuant to this subsection for kindergarten to grade 2 students
25 may be expended only on behalf of kindergarten to grade 2 students and funds
26 provided pursuant to this subsection for public preschool programs may be expended
27 only on behalf of public preschool program to grade 2 students.

28 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15681, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 141, §17, is
29 further amended to read:

30 **4. Public preschool program to grade 2 funds.** For targeted public preschool
31 program to grade 2 funds, the commissioner shall calculate the amount that may be made
32 available to eligible school administrative units in accordance with section 15675 as
33 follows.

34 A. For kindergarten to grade 2 students, for fiscal year 2005-06, the amount equals
35 the product of the per-pupil guarantee calculated pursuant to section 15676 multiplied
36 by the additional weight calculated pursuant to section 15675, subsection 3.

37 B. For kindergarten to grade 2 students, for fiscal year 2006-07 and each subsequent
38 year, the commissioner shall recalculate the amount by using the amount calculated
39 under paragraph A as a base and appropriate trends in the Consumer Price Index or
40 other comparable index.

