

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 270

S.P. 121

In Senate, February 1, 2021

**An Act To Amend the Regional Adjustment Index To Ensure School
Districts Do Not Receive Less than the State Average for Teacher
Salaries**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 28, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senators: POULIOT of Kennebec, WOODSOME of York, Representatives:
SAMPSON of Alfred, STEARNS of Guilford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15682**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 419, §2, is further amended
3 to read:

4 **§15682. Regional adjustment**

5 ~~The commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation~~
6 ~~for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional~~
7 ~~adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor~~
8 ~~market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide~~
9 ~~education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary~~
10 ~~and benefits costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary and benefit costs of other~~
11 ~~school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679. Beginning in~~
12 ~~fiscal year 2012-13, and for each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner shall make a~~
13 ~~regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit~~
14 ~~determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the~~
15 ~~regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in which the school~~
16 ~~administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education policy research~~
17 ~~institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary costs as calculated under~~
18 ~~section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated~~
19 ~~under section 15679. Beginning in fiscal year 2022-23 and for each subsequent fiscal year,~~
20 ~~a school administrative unit may not receive a regional adjustment that results in a decrease~~
21 ~~in the unit's allocation for teacher salary costs under section 15678 and salary costs of other~~
22 ~~school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679.~~

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires that, beginning in fiscal year 2022-23, when the Commissioner of
25 Education makes the regional adjustment to the total operating allocation for each school
26 administrative unit, the commissioner may not make an adjustment that decreases a school
27 administrative unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs.