

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 281

H.P. 197

House of Representatives, February 1, 2021

An Act To Address Student Achievement Gaps

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 28, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§16** is enacted to read:

3 **16. Academic achievement gap adjustment.** Beginning in fiscal year 2022-23, and
4 for each subsequent fiscal year, a school administrative unit may receive an adjustment to
5 address academic achievement gaps based on student race or economic status in accordance
6 with this subsection. The commissioner shall:

7 A. Specify data and metrics for the calculation of academic achievement gaps within
8 school administrative units based on student race or economic status;

9 B. Establish eligibility criteria for a school administrative unit to qualify for the
10 adjustment under this subsection;

11 C. Determine the amount of the adjustment or the method for calculating the amount;
12 and

13 D. Require an eligible school administrative unit to submit a plan to the commissioner
14 to address the academic achievement gap or gaps prior to receipt of the adjustment each
15 fiscal year.

16 The commissioner may disburse up to \$10,000,000 annually, beginning in fiscal year
17 2022-23, to provide adjustments under this subsection.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill adds a provision to the school funding formula to provide an additional
20 allocation of state funding to school administrative units to address student academic
21 achievement gaps based on student race or economic status. It requires the Commissioner
22 of Education to specify data and metrics to calculate student academic achievement gaps,
23 to establish eligibility criteria for the adjustment and to determine the adjustment amount
24 or method for computing the amount. It also requires eligible school administrative units
25 to submit a plan to address academic achievement gaps prior to receipt of the adjustment
26 each year. It authorizes the commissioner to disburse up to \$10,000,000 per fiscal year to
27 provide the adjustments.