

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1367

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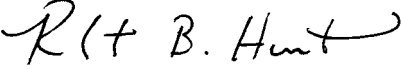
H.P. 881

House of Representatives, March 28, 2023

### **An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education**

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

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and  
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, FAY of Raymond,  
MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MURPHY of Scarborough, SALISBURY of Westbrook,  
SARGENT of York, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8606-A, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

3 **7. Notification.** If the state allocation for expenditures on adult education programs  
4 falls below 95% of the allocation established for the prior year pursuant to subsection 2,  
5 the department's office of adult education shall notify the Governor's office and the  
6 Legislature in writing. The notice must include the total amount necessary to fulfill the  
7 State's obligation for reimbursement of adult education program costs as provided in this  
8 section and the total amount that is available.

9 **Sec. 2. Department of Education adult education system and**  
10 **reimbursement formula working group.** The Department of Education shall  
11 establish a working group, or as an alternative hire and fund an outside agency, to analyze  
12 the State's adult education system and reimbursement formula to ensure it meets the  
13 following criteria:

- 14 1. The formula is fair and meets the needs of adult education programs;
- 15 2. Adult education is funded at a comparable level to kindergarten to grade 12
- 16 education, career and technical education and community colleges;
- 17 3. All funds appropriated and allocated for adult education, including grants, additional
- 18 state funds and federal funds, are being used to their best potential to meet the needs of the
- 19 State's adults; and
- 20 4. Communities are incentivized to use, and are rewarded for using, local funding for
- 21 adult education.

22 The working group shall consult with adult education programs throughout the State,  
23 a statewide adult education association, personnel of the department's office of adult  
24 education and others as needed to fully explore and remedy the formula. The department  
25 shall report with the findings of the working group no later than December 6, 2023 to the  
26 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which may report out a bill  
27 based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

28 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
29 allocations are made.

30 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

31 **Adult Education 0364**

32 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to support adult education programs statewide.

| 33 <b>GENERAL FUND</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b> |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 34 All Other           | \$1,500,000    | \$2,000,000    |
| 35                     |                |                |
| 36 GENERAL FUND TOTAL  | \$1,500,000    | \$2,000,000    |

37 **SUMMARY**

38 This bill provides that the Department of Education's office of adult education must  
39 notify the Governor's office and the Legislature if the state allocation for expenditures on  
40 adult education programs falls below 95% of the allocation established for the prior year.

1 The notification must include the total amount necessary to fulfill the state obligation to  
2 reimburse adult education costs and the total amount that is available.

3 It directs the department to establish a working group, or as an alternative hire and fund  
4 an outside agency, to analyze the State's adult education system and reimbursement formula  
5 to ensure: the formula is fair and meets the needs of adult education programs; adult  
6 education is funded at a comparable level to kindergarten to grade 12 education, career and  
7 technical education and community colleges; all funds appropriated and allocated for adult  
8 education, including grants, additional state funds and federal funds, are being used to their  
9 best potential to meet the needs of the State's adults; and communities are incentivized to  
10 use, and are rewarded for using, local funding for adult education.

11 It also includes an appropriations and allocations section.