

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

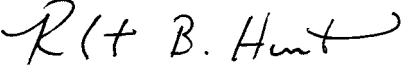
No. 1398

H.P. 893

House of Representatives, March 28, 2023

An Act to Increase Teacher Salaries

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senator:
RAFFERTY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13406**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. UU, §1, is
3 repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13407**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 441, §1, is repealed.

5 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13408** is enacted to read:

6 **§13408. Minimum salaries beginning in 2024-2025 school year**

7 Using available federal funds, or, if federal funds are not available, using money
8 provided by the State, each school administrative unit shall establish a minimum salary for
9 certified teachers and career and technical education teachers as follows:

10 **1. School year 2024-2025.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2024, the
11 minimum salary is \$42,500;

12 **2. School year 2025-2026.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2025, the
13 minimum salary is \$45,000;

14 **3. School year 2026-2027.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2026, the
15 minimum salary is \$47,500;

16 **4. School year 2027-2028.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2027, the
17 minimum salary is \$50,000;

18 **5. School year 2028-2029.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2028, the
19 minimum salary is \$52,500;

20 **6. School year 2029-2030.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2029, the
21 minimum salary is \$55,000;

22 **7. School year 2030-2031.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2030, the
23 minimum salary is \$57,500;

24 **8. School year 2031-2032.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2031, the
25 minimum salary is \$60,000.

26 **9. School years beginning in or after 2032.** For the school year starting after June
27 30, 2032, the minimum salary for certified teachers and career and technical education
28 teachers must increase by multiplying the amount of the salary by the cost-of-living
29 adjustment. For each subsequent year, the previous year's adjusted minimum salary for
30 certified teachers and career and technical education teachers must increase by multiplying
31 the amount of the adjusted minimum salary by the cost-of-living adjustment. For purposes
32 of this subsection, "cost-of-living adjustment" means the Chained Consumer Price Index
33 for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the preceding calendar year divided by the
34 Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the calendar
35 year in which the adjustment is effective and "Chained Consumer Price Index" has the same
36 meaning as in Title 36, section 5402, subsection 1.

37 A school administrative unit shall provide to the department annually on or before
38 October 1st the number of certified teachers and career and technical education teachers
39 eligible for incremental salary increases as defined in section 15689, subsection 7-A,
40 paragraph A.

1 Beginning in school year 2032-2033, the municipality shall pay the costs of the
2 minimum salary established in this section.

3 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§7-A**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 441, §2, is
4 further amended to read:

5 **7-A. Adjustment for minimum teacher salary.** Beginning in fiscal year ~~2020-21~~
6 ~~2024-25~~, the commissioner shall, in accordance with this subsection, increase the state
7 share of the total allocation to a qualifying school administrative unit by an amount
8 necessary to achieve the minimum salary for certified teachers and career and technical
9 education teachers established in section ~~13407~~ 13408.

10 A. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, "qualifying
11 school administrative unit" means a school administrative unit that the commissioner
12 determines to have a locally established salary schedule with a minimum teacher salary
13 of less than ~~\$40,000~~ \$42,500 in school year ~~2019-2020~~ 2024-2025. As used in this
14 subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, "incremental salary increases"
15 means the incremental increases in the salaries of certified teachers and career and
16 technical education teachers employed by a qualifying school administrative unit in
17 school year ~~2019-2020~~ 2024-2025 necessary to meet the minimum salary requirements
18 of section ~~13407~~ 13408 from fiscal year ~~2020-21~~ 2024-25 to fiscal year ~~2022-23~~ 2031-
19 32.

20 B. The commissioner shall allocate the funds appropriated by the Legislature in
21 accordance with the following.

22 (1) The amount of increased funds provided to qualifying school administrative
23 units under this subsection must be the amount necessary to fund the incremental
24 salary increases specified in this subsection.

25 (2) The number of certified teachers and career and technical education teachers
26 eligible for incremental salary increases in a qualifying school administrative unit
27 for a fiscal year must be based on the information supplied to the department
28 pursuant to section ~~13407~~ 13408 in that fiscal year.

29 (3) The increased funds provided under this subsection must be issued to
30 qualifying school administrative units as an adjustment to the state school subsidy
31 for distribution to the certified teachers and career and technical education
32 teachers. Qualifying school administrative units shall use the payments provided
33 under this subsection to provide salary adjustments to those certified teachers and
34 career and technical education teachers eligible for incremental salary increases.
35 The department shall collect the necessary data to allow the funds to be included
36 in a qualifying school administrative unit's monthly subsidy payments beginning
37 no later than February 1st of each fiscal year.

38 (4) Funding for incremental salary increases in fiscal year ~~2020-21~~ 2024-25 must
39 be based on data submitted to the department and certified by school administrative
40 units as of October 1, ~~2019~~ 2023.

41 C. This subsection is repealed July 1, 2032.

42 **Sec. 5. Effective date.** This Act takes effect June 30, 2024.

SUMMARY

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This bill incrementally increases minimum teacher salaries beginning in 2024 using federal funds, if available, otherwise using state funds until 2032 and afterwards using municipal funds to pay for those increases.