

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1526

H.P. 981

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

An Act to Provide Grants to Support Reading Proficiency Programming in Schools

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and
Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard
Beach, MALON of Biddeford, PERRY of Calais, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SHAGOURY
of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 114-B** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 114-B**

4 **READING PROFICIENCY GRANT FUND**

5 **§2661. Reading Proficiency Grant Fund**

6 **1. Reading Proficiency Grant Fund.** The Reading Proficiency Grant Fund, referred
7 to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department as a nonlapsing fund to
8 provide grants to strengthen reading proficiency programming.

9 **2. Grants.** The department shall establish criteria to award grants to school
10 administrative units from the fund. In awarding grants, the department shall give special
11 consideration to school administrative units serving populations of students with identified
12 reading proficiency achievement gaps, including, but not limited to, reading achievement
13 gaps for economically disadvantaged students and racial and ethnic populations.

14 **3. Rulemaking.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including
15 but not limited to rules governing procedures, criteria and priorities for awarding grants.
16 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
17 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

18 **Sec. 2. Report on Reading Proficiency Grant Fund.** By December 6, 2023, the
19 Department of Education shall submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
20 Cultural Affairs a report on the Reading Proficiency Grant Fund under the Maine Revised
21 Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2661, the criteria to award grants to school administrative units
22 from the fund and the rules adopted to implement the awarding of grants from the fund.
23 The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

24 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
25 allocations are made.

26 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**
27 **Reading Proficiency Grant Fund N435**

28 Initiative: Provides one-time funds for grants to eligible school administrative units to
29 strengthen reading proficiency programming.

30 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
31 All Other	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
32		
33 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

34 **SUMMARY**

35 This bill creates the Reading Proficiency Grant Fund and directs the Department of
36 Education to provide grants to school administrative units to strengthen reading proficiency
37 programming with special consideration given to school administrative units serving
38 populations of students with identified reading proficiency achievement gaps, including,

1 but not limited to, reading achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged students and
2 racial and ethnic populations. The bill appropriates \$2,000,000 in fiscal years 2023-24 and
3 2024-25 to provide such grants. The bill also requires the department to submit a report on
4 the Reading Proficiency Grant Fund to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
5 Cultural Affairs by December 6, 2023 and authorizes the committee to report out a bill to
6 the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.