

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SAR  
ROS

L D 1798

Date 6/13/23

(Filing No S-294)

MINORITY

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S P 723, L D 1798, "An Act to Support School Choice by Establishing Empowerment Scholarship Accounts"

Amend the bill in section 1 in c 335 in §9941 in subsection 5 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 21 in L D ) by striking out the following "learning," and inserting the following 'learning or'

Amend the bill in section 1 in c 335 in §9941 in subsection 5 in the last 3 lines (page 1, lines 22 to 24 in L D ) by striking out the following "or a parent or guardian providing home instruction that meets the requirements of section 5001-A, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (4)"

Amend the bill in section 1 in c 335 in §9942 in subsection 6 in the last 3 lines (page 3, lines 26 to 28 in L D ) by striking out the following " , except as established by rule for a parent or guardian providing home instruction that meets the requirements of section 5001-A, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (4)"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following

'Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Empowerment Scholarship Account Fund N456

Initiative Provides ongoing funds for one Management Analyst II position and related All Other costs to administer the Empowerment Scholarship Program

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1 000	1 000
Personal Services	\$68,466	\$98,331
All Other	\$7,058	\$8,860
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$75,524	\$107,191

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S P 723, L D 1798 (S-294)

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Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively

**SUMMARY**

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, removes from the bill the provisions that apply the empowerment scholarship program to home instruction

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

(See attached)



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1798

LR 572(02)

## An Act to Support School Choice by Establishing Empowerment Scholarship Accounts

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-294)  
 Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

Reduction in state subsidy - local school administrative units

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$75,524	\$107,191	\$110,731	\$114,398
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$75,524	\$107,191	\$110,731	\$114,398

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes individual empowerment scholarship accounts that may be used by parents to pay for the education of their children outside of the public school system. The bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$75,524 in fiscal 2023-24 and \$107,191 in fiscal year 2024-25 to a newly established Empowerment Scholarship Account Fund program within the Department of Education for one Management Analyst II position and related All Other costs associated with administering the program.

The bill requires the Department of Education to deposit 90% of the state subsidy for each child approved for an empowerment scholarship account that would otherwise be paid to the child's local school administrative unit (SAU) into an account established for that child. It also requires the SAU to deposit 90% of its local contribution attributable to that child into the child's empowerment scholarship account. The impact to individual SAUs will depend on the number of students in each SAU that participate in the program each year.

Additional costs to the Office of the State Treasurer associated with establishing and overseeing individual empowerment scholarship accounts can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Additional costs to the Office of the State Controller associated with required transfers of funds in connection with the closure of accounts can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.