

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T I E T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 504

S. P. 293

In Senate, February 5, 1941.

Referred to Committee on Education and sent down for concurrence.
500 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Sanborn of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to the School Equalization Fund.

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

R. S., c. 19, § 210, amended. Section 210 of chapter 19 of the revised statutes as amended, is hereby further amended by repealing paragraphs numbered I, II, III and VI, and by renumbering and amending paragraphs formerly numbered IV and V so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows:

'Sec. 210. School equalization fund, how apportioned. The school equalization fund shall be apportioned by the commissioner of education to the towns qualified to receive aid from said fund as follows:

IV. I. Whenever any town through its superintendent or superintending school committee shall submit to the commissioner of education a definite plan for consolidation of schools, conveyance of pupils, housing of teachers, standardization of schools, or other projects especially worthy of encouragement, said commissioner shall investigate such plan and upon approval of the same may recommend to the governor and council the payment to such town of an amount, not exceeding \$500 in any one year, as an encouragement to such plan or project, provided, however, that the

total amount available for aid under this paragraph shall not exceed ~~10%~~ \$10,000 of the equalization fund.

~~V.~~ **II.** ~~Such amount~~ **That part** of the school equalization fund not apportioned as provided for by the ~~4 preceding paragraphs~~ **paragraph** shall be apportioned to towns where ~~a~~ **the** rate of taxation ~~considerably~~ in excess of the average ~~of rate rates~~ **for the several towns** of the state fails to produce a school revenue sufficient to ~~secure a reasonable standard of educational efficiency~~ **provide adequate funds together with the apportionment from the state school fund and the income from any permanent school fund to maintain a minimum educational program, i.e., 1/2 the cost of conveyance of elementary and secondary school pupils at public expense. \$783 per elementary unit, \$1,305 per secondary unit, and the amount paid for secondary tuition;** provided, that the rate of taxation hereinbefore named shall be reckoned on the basis of the amount or amounts actually raised by taxation by the town for the support of elementary and secondary schools for the purposes named in section 212, exclusive of any amounts received from the state. The commissioner of education shall cause a special investigation to be made of the educational facilities of such towns and, whenever it appears to the said commissioner that any town should receive special aid or encouragement for the purpose of raising the standard of qualifications of teachers or of increasing the length of the school year or otherwise adding to the efficiency of the schools, he shall issue to the governor and council a recommendation relative thereto, and the governor and council may draw a warrant in favor of the treasurer of said town ~~for the payment~~ **from the equalization fund for an amount to cover the difference between the proceeds of a tax of 12 mills on the valuation of the town as fixed by the state bureau of taxation together with the apportionment from the state school fund and the interest on any permanent school fund, and the cost of a minimum educational program as hereinbefore defined** ~~of a sum~~ **which amount** shall be expended under the direction of the superintending school committee of said town in accordance with the recommendation as made by the said commissioner. ~~The said commissioner may expend for the special investigation of educational facilities as herein provided a sum not to exceed \$2,000 which shall be deducted from the equalization fund.~~ **Whenever the amount of the equalization fund as now provided by law is less than the sum of the amounts recommended to provide a minimum program in the towns of the state the necessary balance shall be provided from the general funds of the state.'**