

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F O U R T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1322

H. P. 1949

House of Representatives, March 10, 1949.

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Fuller of Buckfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

AN ACT to Equalize the Educational Load of Municipalities.

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

R. S., c. 37, § 204, repealed and replaced. Section 204 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 151 and section 19 of chapter 350, both of the public laws of 1945, and by section 2 of chapter 403 of the public laws of 1947, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 204. Equalizing fund; how apportioned. To insure reasonably adequate educational opportunities for all children throughout the state and to distribute equitably the burden of support so that towns will not be forced to make excessive tax levies in order to provide essential school services, there is created an equalizing fund which the commissioner shall apportion annually to towns in terms of their educational needs and financial abilities as follows:

I. Whenever any town through its superintendent or superintending school committee shall submit to the commissioner 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 1 year, as an encouragement to such plan or project, provided, however, that the total amount available for aid under this subsection shall not exceed \$15,000 of the equalizing fund.

II. Based on information provided in financial, school system and enrollment reports, the commissioner shall publish in January of each year estimates of apportionments to be made the following December for partial support of foundation programs of education and of transportation services. Foundation program support shall be the level of per-pupil expenditures nearest the state average for recurring educational costs which available funds will finance. Transportation service support shall be 60% of transportation costs above the average for the state. Allotments to eligible towns shall be determined by:

A. Finding the pupil load which shall be the number of resident pupils, not to exceed an average actual enrollment of 27 per classroom teacher, for whom the town was providing educational opportunities on April 1.

B. Establishing the financial need which shall be the pupil load times the difference between

1. the sum of the foundation program and the transportation service support, and
2. the per-pupil resources, other than receipts from the current tax levy, which may be available to finance these basic expenditures.

C. Computing the difference between the financial need and the town's share in this equalizing plan which shall be the yield from a required levy of 20 mills on state valuation.

The amount apportioned shall be expended under the direction of the superintending school committee of the town, as directed in section 206.