

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 551

S. P. 263

In Senate, February 9, 1951.

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator McKusick of Piscataquis.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

**AN ACT Providing for General-Purpose Educational Aid to Cities, Towns,
Plantations and Community School Districts.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 37, § 201, repealed and replaced. Section 201 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof :

‘Sec. 201. General-purpose educational aid; minimum salaries for teachers; reimbursement for professional credits. On the basis of information available in the office of the commissioner of education on September 1st for the 2 years next preceding the biennial convening of the legislature, as provided in returns of educational statistics required by him, the commissioner shall apportion subsidies to the cities, towns, plantations, and community school districts of the state according to the following plan :

The several cities, towns, and plantations shall be divided into 9 classifications according to their valuations per resident school child being educated at public expense. The valuation shall be as determined by the board of equalization in the statement filed by it, as provided in section 65 of chapter 14 and effective on September 1st, and the number of children shall be

the average of the last 2 enrollment reports of pupils being educated at public expense on April 1st annually, except that for the years 1951-52 allocations shall be based on the board of equalization statement filed on December 1, 1950, and public school enrollment reports, form 35 g. a., of resident pupils for the school year 1949-50.

For each classification the subsidy allocation shall be the same for each of the 2 years of the biennium and shall be a percentage of the average educational costs of the municipality for the preceding 2 years, excluding costs of capital outlay, rent, debt service, repairs, and certain equipment, and deducting incidental receipts. The cost of vocational education shall be the average of local appropriations for the 2-year period designated in the 1st paragraph of this section, except that for the years 1951-52 it shall be based on reports for the school year 1949-50.

The range of classifications and the percentage allocations shall be as follows:

| Class | State valuation per resident pupil | | Percentage of state support of educational operating expenditures |
|-------|------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Not over | \$1,500 | 65% |
| 2 | \$1,501 | \$2,250 | 55% |
| 3 | \$2,251 | \$3,000 | 45% |
| 4 | \$3,001 | \$3,750 | 35% |
| 5 | \$3,751 | \$4,500 | 30% of first \$20,000 25% of the balance |
| 6 | \$4,501 | \$5,500 | 25% of first \$20,000 20% of the balance |
| 7 | \$5,501 | \$6,500 | 25% of first \$20,000 18% of the balance |
| 8 | \$6,501 | \$7,500 | 25% of first \$20,000 16% of the balance |
| 9 | \$7,501 | and over | 25% of first \$20,000 14% of the balance |

The apportionment to any city, town, plantation, or community school district for a period of 4 years after the effective date of this section shall

be at least equal to the comparable state aid in 1950, unless there has been a marked reduction in operating costs.

That portion of the allocation made under this section to any city, town, or plantation which is a member of a community school district, because of its share in the allowable operating costs of the community school, shall be paid to the community school district and shall be credited to the municipality's share of costs for the purposes specified in section 206 of this chapter.

Each city, town, plantation, and community school district shall employ only certified teachers and shall pay such teachers a minimum salary of \$1,500 for a certified teacher; \$1,600 for a teacher who has completed 3 years of professional study beyond high school; \$1,700 for a teacher who has completed 4 years of professional study beyond high school; and \$1,800 for a teacher who holds an earned master's degree. Any city, town, plantation or community school district which fails to comply with any of these conditions shall have deducted from its apportionment a sum equal to twice that by which it is delinquent.

After providing an opportunity for a hearing, the state board of education, on recommendation of the commissioner, may adjust the state subsidy to a municipality or community school district when, in the opinion of the board, the expenditures for education in such municipality or district show evidence of manipulation to gain an unfair advantage or are adjudged inadequate or excessive.

Whenever any certified teacher completes, within any 2-year period, 6 credit hours of additional professional work approved by the commissioner and receives supplementary financial assistance in an amount not less than \$50 from a municipality or community school district, the municipality or community school district shall receive reimbursement of \$50 from the state for such expenditures at the next distribution of state funds; provided further, that the renewal of each teaching certificate shall be conditional on the completion of at least 6 semester hours of professional study within each period of 5 years.

If the employment of teachers under permits or other special licenses is authorized by the state board of education, the said board shall have the authority to prescribe minimum salaries and other regulations for this class of teachers.

In the event of an insufficient appropriation to finance the foregoing provisions, the commissioner is authorized to make payments to all cities,

towns, plantations, and community school districts in that ratio which the funds available are to the total of apportionments prescribed.

Subject to the foregoing provisions of this section, the state board of education may make such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this section.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 37, §§ 203, 204, repealed. Sections 203 and 204 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes, as amended, are hereby repealed.