

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

August 21, 1989 to August 22, 1989

and

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

January 3, 1990 to April 14, 1990

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
July 14, 1990

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1990

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

of the
ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE

January 3, 1990 to April 14, 1990

CHAPTER 697

H.P. 1305 - L.D. 1805

An Act Concerning Geographic Isolation Grants

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15612, 1st ¶, as amended by PL 1987, c. 853, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

Adjustments to the state share of the foundation allocation ~~shall~~ must be made as allowed in subsections ~~1 to 4~~ 1, 3 and 4, regardless of the amount raised for its local share of the foundation allocation for operating costs.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15612, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. G, §§2 and 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. The commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education and under rules promulgated by the department, shall determine whether a school within a school administrative unit is geographically isolated. The following factors must be considered in making the determination:

- (1) Per pupil expenditures;
- (2) Distance of the school from other school facilities;
- (3) Unique transportation problems;
- (4) Size of the school;
- (5) Mills raised for education in the school administrative unit; and
- (6) Any other relevant factors.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15612, sub-§2, ¶¶B and C, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. G, §§2 and 4, are amended to read:

B. If ~~the~~ a school within a school administrative unit is declared to be geographically isolated, the commissioner shall adjust the operating allocation of the school administrative unit to meet the educational needs of that unit.

C. The geographic isolation adjustment ~~shall~~ may not exceed the amounts expended by the school administrative unit in the geographically isolated schools in the base year which were in excess of the operating allocation for those schools in the year of allocation.

Sec. 4. Rulemaking. The Department of Educational and Cultural Services, by September 30, 1990, shall promulgate rules setting forth a point system to be

used in determining eligibility for the geographic isolation adjustment. The point system must provide that for each factor set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15612, subsection 2, paragraph A, a school is awarded a number of points based on the level of hardship created for the school administrative unit as a result of each factor. The rules must establish a point total below which the school is not considered geographically isolated. The department shall also promulgate rules for calculating the amount of the adjustment, and for prorating the adjustment if appropriations are not sufficient. The rules must provide that funds will be prorated on the basis of the number of points awarded to a school administrative unit under the eligibility determination. Rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375.

Sec. 5. Application. This Act and the rules promulgated under section 4 of this Act apply to geographic isolation adjustments for fiscal year 1991 and beyond. The adjustments for fiscal year 1991 will not be paid before the earlier of September 30, 1990 and the date of final adoption of the rules required by section 4.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 698

S.P. 865 - L.D. 2216

An Act to Coordinate and Consolidate Student Financial Assistance Services under the Finance Authority of Maine

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, students attending or planning to attend institutions of higher education, who are residents of the State or attending these institutions in the State, and families of these students, are in need of financial assistance; and

Whereas, it is desirable for the State to improve the methods of delivery of this financial assistance; and

Whereas, it is desirable to provide a comprehensive, consolidated system of delivering this financial assistance immediately so that students and their families will have access to improved methods of delivery as soon as possible; and

Whereas, the Finance Authority of Maine has been designated in legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 114th Legislature as the agency responsible for providing a comprehensive, consolidated financial assistance program; and

Whereas, additional legislation is necessary for the Finance Authority of Maine to begin implementing the program as soon as possible; and