

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

‘**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15671, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 660, §1, is amended to read:

5. Local control of expenditures. ~~Except for those components that are targeted funds,~~ Funds provided for the essential programs and services described in this section must be distributed as general purpose aid for local schools, and each school administrative unit shall make its own determination regarding the configuration of resources best suited for its pupils and how to allocate available funds for these resources.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15671, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. LL, §1, is further amended to read:

6. Targeted funds. Funds for technology, implementation of a standards-based system and the costs of additional investments in educating children in ~~kindergarten~~ a public preschool program to grade 2 as described in section 15681 must be provided as targeted allocations. ~~School administrative units shall submit a plan for the use of these funds and receive funding based on approval of the plan by the commissioner.~~ Beginning in fiscal year 2008-09, each school administrative unit shall make its own determination regarding how to allocate the targeted funds allocations. The first priority for use of the targeted funds allocated must be to provide resources for the targeted funds components described in section 15681. After making a determination that it has provided adequate resources for the targeted funds components described in section 15681, a school administrative unit may allocate any remaining targeted funds allocations to provide resources for any other cost component of essential programs and services described in this chapter that it determines is best suited for its pupils.’

SUMMARY

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The amendment strikes and replaces the bill and eliminates the current requirements in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act that school administrative units submit a plan for the use of targeted funds and receive funding based on approval of the plan by the Commissioner of Education.

Current law provides that school administrative units must submit a plan for approval by the Commissioner of Education in order to receive and spend targeted funds for the essential programs and services cost components pertaining to public preschool program to grade 2 education, educational technology and implementing a standards-based educational system. The amendment provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2008-09, a school administrative unit shall make its own determination regarding how to allocate targeted funds. The amendment also establishes that the first priority for use of the targeted funds allocated must be to provide resources for the targeted funds components, but that after making a determination that it has provided adequate resources for the targeted funds components, a school administrative unit may allocate any remaining targeted funds allocations to provide resources for any

other cost component of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act that it determines is best suited for its pupils.