



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 712

H.P. 517

House of Representatives, February 11, 2019

An Act To Fully Fund After-school and Preschool Programs in the School Funding Formula, Increase the Economically Disadvantaged Student Factor in the School Funding Formula and Increase the School Construction Debt Service Limit

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, FECTEAU of Biddeford, McCREA of Fort
Fairfield, RECKITT of South Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senators: CARSON of
Cumberland, LIBBY of Androscoggin, SANBORN, H. of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4254, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

3 **4. Second and subsequent years.** In each year a school administrative unit operates
4 an approved public preschool program, other than the year in which it receives start-up
5 funding in accordance with section 4271, the State must provide funding in accordance
6 with sections 15675 and 15681.

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8901, first ¶,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 657, §1, is
8 amended to read:

9 The After-school Program Fund, referred to in this chapter as "the program fund," is
10 established to encourage the facilitation of high-quality after-school programs in school
11 administrative units throughout the State. The commissioner shall administer the
12 program fund within the department. The commissioner may administer the program
13 fund in addition to the amounts allocated pursuant to section 15681-A, subsection 6.
14 Standards and approval for the allocation and use of program fund money are as follows.

15 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15674, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

16 **4. Pupil count for after-school programs.** Beginning with funding for the 2019-
17 2020 school year, the pupil count for students attending after-school programs must be
18 based on the most recent October 1st count prior to the year of funding.

19 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15675, sub-§2, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C,
20 §30, is amended to read:

21 A. An additional weight of ~~.15~~ 1.50. The number of economically disadvantaged
22 students for each school administrative unit is determined by multiplying the number
23 of resident pupils in the most recent calendar year by the most recent available
24 elementary free or reduced-price meals percentage. The elementary free or reduced-
25 price meals percentage may be applied to determine the number of economically
26 disadvantaged students in the unit's secondary grades; and

27 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15675, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 581, §8, is
28 further amended to read:

29 **3. Public preschool program to grade 2 students.** If a school administrative unit is
30 eligible to receive targeted funds for its public preschool to grade 2 program under
31 section 15681, then for each ~~public preschool program~~ kindergarten to grade 2 student the
32 unit receives an additional weight of .10 and for each public preschool program student
33 the unit receives the amount specified in section 15681, subsection 4, paragraph C, if the
34 school is eligible for funding in accordance with section 4254, subsection 4.

35 A. For purposes of the additional ~~weight~~ funds under this subsection, the count of
36 public preschool program to grade 2 students is calculated based on the number of
37 resident pupils in the most recent calendar year. Beginning with funding for the
38 2015-2016 school year, the pupil count for students 4 years of age and students 5

1 years of age attending public preschool programs must be based on the most recent
2 October 1st count prior to the allocation year.

3 B. Only school administrative units with public preschool to grade 2 programs
4 approved by the department are eligible for funds pursuant to this subsection or other
5 comparable index.

6 C. Funds provided pursuant to this subsection for kindergarten to grade 2 students
7 may be expended only on behalf of kindergarten to grade 2 students and funds
8 provided pursuant to this subsection for public preschool programs may be expended
9 only on behalf of public preschool program to grade 2 students.

10 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15681, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 141, §17, is
11 further amended to read:

12 **4. Public preschool program to grade 2 funds.** For targeted public preschool
13 program to grade 2 funds, the commissioner shall calculate the amount that ~~may~~ must be
14 made available to eligible school administrative units as follows.

15 A. For fiscal year 2005-06, the amount equals the product of the per-pupil guarantee
16 calculated pursuant to section 15676 multiplied by the additional weight calculated
17 pursuant to section 15675, subsection 3.

18 B. For kindergarten to grade 2 students, for fiscal year 2006-07 and each subsequent
19 year, the commissioner shall recalculate the amount by using the amount calculated
20 under paragraph A as a base and appropriate trends in the Consumer Price Index or
21 other comparable index.

22 C. For public preschool program students, for each fiscal year, 50% of the per-pupil
23 costs of the public preschool program in the base year adjusted to the year prior to the
24 allocation year, except that, if a school administrative unit's state share percentage is
25 more than 50%, the targeted funds are equal to the per-pupil costs of the public
26 preschool program in the base year adjusted to the year prior to the allocation year
27 multiplied by the school administrative unit's state share percentage.

28 **Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §15681-A, sub-§4-A**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 420, §7, is
29 amended to read:

30 **4-A. Costs of plans for middle school career and technical education exploration**
31 **programs.** Beginning in fiscal year 2018-19, and in each subsequent fiscal year, costs
32 approved pursuant to chapter 313 attributable to establishing and operating career and
33 technical education exploration programs for middle school students. The commissioner
34 may establish an allocation to school administrative units for plans under this subsection.
35 The plans must be implemented within the school administrative unit; ~~and~~

36 **Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §15681-A, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §44
37 and affected by §§72 and 74 and c. 12, Pt. WW, §18, is amended to read:

38 **5. Gifted and talented education costs.** Gifted and talented education costs in the
39 base year adjusted to the year prior to the allocation year; and

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Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §15681-A, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. After-school program costs. Beginning in fiscal year 2019-20, after-school program per-pupil costs for each applicable student in the base year adjusted to the year prior to the allocation year multiplied by the school administrative unit's state share percentage.

Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §15683, sub-§1, ¶E, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §41, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

E. If the school administrative unit is eligible for targeted public preschool program to grade 2 funds pursuant to section 15681, subsection 1, the sum of:

(1) The product of the EPS per-pupil rate multiplied by the additional weight for kindergarten to grade 2 calculated pursuant to section 15675, subsection 3; and

(2) The amount specified in section 15681, subsection 4, paragraph C, if the school administrative unit is eligible for public preschool program funds under that section.

Sec. 11. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §56, is further amended to read:

A. The state board may approve projects as long as no project approval will cause debt service costs, as defined in section 15672, subsection 2-A, paragraph A and pursuant to Resolve 2007, chapter 223, section 4, to exceed the maximum limits specified in Table 1 in subsequent fiscal years.

Table 1

Fiscal year	Major Capital Maximum Debt Service Limit	Integrated, Consolidated Secondary and Postsecondary Project Maximum Debt Service Limit
1990	\$ 48,000,000	
1991	\$ 57,000,000	
1992	\$ 65,000,000	
1993	\$ 67,000,000	
1994	\$ 67,000,000	
1995	\$ 67,000,000	
1996	\$ 67,000,000	
1997	\$ 67,000,000	
1998	\$ 67,000,000	
1999	\$ 69,000,000	
2000	\$ 72,000,000	
2001	\$ 74,000,000	
2002	\$ 74,000,000	
2003	\$ 80,000,000	
2004	\$ 80,000,000	
2005	\$ 84,000,000	

1	2006	\$ 90,000,000	
2	2007	\$ 96,000,000	
3	2008	\$100,000,000	
4	2009	\$104,000,000	
5	2010	\$108,000,000	
6	2011	\$126,000,000	
7	2012	\$116,000,000	
8	2013	\$116,000,000	
9	2014	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
10	2015	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
11	2016	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
12	2017	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
13	2018	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
14	2019	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
15	2020	\$126,000,000 <u>\$150,000,000</u>	\$20,000,000
16	2021	\$126,000,000 <u>\$150,000,000</u>	\$20,000,000
17	2022	\$126,000,000 <u>\$150,000,000</u>	\$20,000,000
18	2023	\$126,000,000 <u>\$150,000,000</u>	\$20,000,000

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SUMMARY

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This bill amends the school funding formula to fund after-school programs based on the state share percentage and to fund public preschool programs at 50% of the cost of the programs, or if a school administrative unit's state share percentage is greater than 50%, to fund the unit's public preschool program at the state share percentage. The bill also increases the additional weight for economically disadvantaged students from 0.15 to 1.5. The bill also raises the maximum debt service limit for school construction projects from \$126,000,000 to \$150,000,000 beginning in 2020.