



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 127

S.P. 60

In Senate, January 21, 2021

**Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Provide Grants for
Professional Development in Computer Science Instruction**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 19, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the pilot program to provide professional development grants for computer
4 science instruction is established by this resolve as a 2-year pilot program; and

5 **Whereas,** the pilot program must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order
6 that the pilot program may be nearly completed so that a meaningful report can be
7 submitted in time for the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature; and

8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 **Sec. 1. Commissioner of Education to establish pilot program to provide**
13 **professional development grants for computer science instruction. Resolved:**
14 That the Commissioner of Education shall establish a pilot program to award grants for the
15 provision of professional development in computer science instruction for a period of 2
16 years. The Commissioner of Education may accept donations from outside sources and
17 state and federal funding to accomplish the purposes of this resolve.

18 **Sec. 2. Application. Resolved:** That a local education agency may submit an
19 application for grant funds under the pilot program pursuant to section 1. An application
20 must address, but is not limited to, how the agency will:

21 1. Engage new and existing teachers with minimal or no background in computer
22 science instruction in professional development opportunities in computer science
23 instruction;

24 2. Use research-based or evidence-based best practices for high-quality professional
25 development;

26 3. Engage and support historically underrepresented student populations in computer
27 science;

28 4. Provide teachers with hands-on, inquiry-based practices; and

29 5. Engage, involve or partner with outside organizations, including but not limited to
30 the business community, nonprofit organizations and private entities.

31 **Sec. 3. Use of funds. Resolved:** That a local education agency that receives a grant
32 award during the pilot program under section 1 must use the funds only for high-quality,
33 teacher-developed professional development for prekindergarten to grade 12 computer
34 science pedagogy and content.

35 **Sec. 4. Annual reports. Resolved:** That each local education agency that receives
36 a grant under the pilot program under section 1 shall report annually for the duration of the
37 grant to the Department of Education.

38 **Sec. 5. Fund established. Resolved:** That the Professional Development Grant
39 Pilot Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund under the Department of Education
40 for the purpose of receiving funds from state, federal and other sources, including donations
41 from private citizens, corporations and entities for the purposes of this resolve. The

1 department shall distribute any available funds in the fund to support the purposes
2 described in this resolve. Upon distribution of all the funds, the fund is dissolved.

3 **Sec. 6. Report to Legislature. Resolved:** That, no later than January 1, 2023, the
4 Commissioner of Education shall submit a report regarding the pilot program pursuant to
5 this resolve and make recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the joint
6 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural
7 affairs. The joint standing committee may report out legislation on the subject matter of the
8 report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

9 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
10 takes effect when approved.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This resolve establishes a 2-year pilot program to provide grants for professional
13 development in computer science instruction.