



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1647

LR 1594(02)

## An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act to Provide Additional Remedies for Educational Discrimination

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Judiciary

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - School Administrative Units

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$257,600	\$267,646	\$278,084
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$257,600	\$267,646	\$278,084

### Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

This bill may increase the number of civil suits filed in the court system. The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system does not require additional funding at this time. The collection of additional filing fees will increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill allows a court to award compensatory damages in cases of intentional educational discrimination. The bill appropriates ongoing funds for one Investigator position within the University of Maine System, beginning at \$132,600 in fiscal year 2026-27, and one Assistant General Counsel position within the Maine Community College System, beginning at \$125,000 in fiscal year 2026-27, to handle cases of educational discrimination brought against each respective institution. The Department of Education (department) and educational institutions, including school administrative units and state institutions of higher education, are likely to incur costs as a result of increased litigation, legal settlements, and higher legal insurance premiums. The bill caps compensatory damages at \$100,000 per complaining party and the total cost per case, including damages and attorney fees, is expected to range from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The total number of cases that will be brought under this bill cannot be known in advance and so the total cost to the department and educational institutions cannot be determined at this time.