



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 236

H.P. 199

House of Representatives, January 22, 2019

An Act Regarding the Use of Unanticipated State Aid for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative STEARNS of Guilford.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft,
LYFORD of Eddington, SAMPSON of Alfred.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1485, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 463, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 **5. Additional state subsidy.** The warrant presented to the legislative body of the
5 regional school unit at a regional school unit budget meeting ~~may~~ must include an article
6 or articles providing that, in the event that the regional school unit receives more state
7 education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, the regional school unit board
8 is authorized to use all or part of the additional subsidy to:

9 A. Increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by
10 the regional school unit board. If that article is approved by the voters at the budget
11 meeting, the regional school unit board may increase expenditures for school
12 purposes in cost center categories approved by the regional school unit board as
13 provided in the article, without holding a special budget meeting and budget
14 validation referendum;

15 B. Increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund. If that article is approved by
16 the voters at the budget meeting, the regional school unit board may increase the
17 allocation of finances for a reserve fund approved by the regional school unit board
18 as provided in the article, without holding a special budget meeting and budget
19 validation referendum; or

20 C. Decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in section 15671-A,
21 subsection 1, paragraph B, for local property taxpayers for funding public education.
22 If that article is approved by the voters at the budget meeting, the regional school unit
23 board may decrease the local cost share expectation for local property taxpayers
24 approved by the regional school unit board as provided in the article, without holding
25 a special budget meeting and budget validation referendum. If as a result of the
26 additional subsidy a school administrative unit board does not raise 100% of the
27 required local contribution pursuant to section 15690, section 1, the commissioner
28 shall waive the required proration of the state share pursuant to section 15690,
29 subsection 1, paragraph C.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill requires the warrant presented to the legislative body of the regional school
32 unit to include an article describing how unanticipated school aid will be used. In cases
33 where the adjustment prevents the regional school unit board from raising 100% of the
34 required local share, the Commissioner of Education must waive the required proration of
35 the state share.