

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 386

H.P. 237

House of Representatives, January 31, 2023

An Act to Assist Schools with Heating and Transportation Fuel Costs During the School Year

(EMERGENCY)

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

ROBERT B. HUNT

Clerk

Presented by Representative DAVIS of East Machias. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representative: PERRY of Calais.

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

Whereas, fuel prices have increased significantly and Maine schools are experiencing increased costs for heating fuel and fuel associated with transportation; and

Whereas, this legislation must be enacted before the expiration of the 90-day period to provide relief to schools during this school year; and

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

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

Sec. 1. Fuel assistance. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Education shall provide funds to public elementary and secondary schools in the State to support the increased costs of heating fuel and fuel associated with transportation. The amount of the funding provided to individual public elementary and secondary schools in the State must be equal to \$100 per student based on the most recent enrollment totals. A school shall apply the funds to its 2022-2023 budget for heating fuel costs and fuel costs associated with transportation.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to public elementary and secondary schools in the State for heating fuel costs and fuel costs associated with transportation during the 2022-2023 school year. The amount of funds to be distributed to individual public elementary and secondary schools in the State must be equal to \$100 per student based on the most recent enrollment data

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$18,000,000	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$18,000,000		

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

34 SUMMARY

This bill provides one-time funds to public elementary and secondary schools in the State for heating fuel costs and fuel costs associated with transportation during the 2022-2023 school year. The bill provides that the amount provided to individual public elementary and secondary schools in the State must be equal to \$100 per student based on the most recent enrollment totals. A school must apply the funds to its 2022-2023 budget for heating fuel costs and fuel costs associated with transportation.