



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 566

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H.P. 411

House of Representatives, February 24, 2021

### **An Act To Address Labor Market Inequities in the School Funding Formula**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on February 22, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TUELL of East Machias.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15682**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 419, §2, is further amended  
3 to read:

4 **§15682. Regional adjustment**

5 ~~The commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation~~  
6 ~~for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional~~  
7 ~~adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor~~  
8 ~~market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide~~  
9 ~~education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary~~  
10 ~~and benefits costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary and benefit costs of other~~  
11 ~~school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679. Beginning in~~  
12 ~~fiscal year 2012-13, and for each subsequent fiscal year, Except as provided in this section,~~  
13 ~~the commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each~~  
14 ~~school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment~~  
15 ~~must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in~~  
16 ~~which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education~~  
17 ~~policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary costs as~~  
18 ~~calculated under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not~~  
19 ~~teachers as calculated under section 15679.~~

20 Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25 and for each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner  
21 may not make a regional adjustment that results in a decrease in a school administrative  
22 unit's allocation for teacher salary costs under section 15678 and salary costs of other  
23 school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679. For any school  
24 administrative unit for which the regional adjustment for fiscal year 2021-22 in the total  
25 operating allocation determined pursuant to section 15683 results in a decrease in the unit's  
26 allocation for teacher salary costs under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-  
27 level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679, the commissioner shall  
28 reduce the adjustment incrementally in fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to transition from  
29 the fiscal year 2021-22 adjustment amount to zero by fiscal year 2024-25. For any school  
30 administrative unit for which the regional adjustment for fiscal year 2021-22 in the total  
31 operating allocation determined pursuant to section 15683 results in an increase in the unit's  
32 allocation for teacher salary costs under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-  
33 level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679, the commissioner shall  
34 set the adjustment in fiscal years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 at the amount of the  
35 adjustment in fiscal year 2021-2022.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This bill requires that, beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, when the Commissioner of  
38 Education makes the regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school  
39 administrative unit, also known as the labor market adjustment, the commissioner may not  
40 make an adjustment in the total operating allocation that decreases a school administrative  
41 unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs. The bill also requires  
42 the commissioner to reduce the adjustment incrementally to zero between fiscal years  
43 2021-22 and 2024-25 for any school administrative unit for which the regional adjustment  
44 in fiscal year 2021-22 results in a decrease in the unit's allocation for teacher and other

1 school-level staff salary costs. Finally, the bill requires the commissioner to maintain the  
2 adjustment amount at the fiscal year 2021-22 amount for the subsequent 3 fiscal years for  
3 any school administrative unit for which the adjustment in fiscal year 2021-22 results in an  
4 increase in the unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs.