



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 866

H.P. 615

House of Representatives, March 7, 2017

An Act To Provide Additional Funds to Schools That Offer Residential Options

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 POULIOT of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, PIERCE of
Falmouth, SAMPSON of Alfred, STEWART of Presque Isle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8202, sub-§2, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 486, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 B. The State shall pay to the school at least \$500 for each student to cover a portion
5 of the cost of room and board for each student for the school year. Except as
6 otherwise provided in this paragraph, ~~effective July 1, 1996,~~ the student or the
7 student's parent or guardian shall pay to the school ~~the cost~~ any additional costs of
8 room and board for the school year. In the case of financial need, the State shall pay
9 to the school the difference between the remaining cost of room and board and the
10 student's or the student's family's ability to pay that cost. The board of trustees shall
11 adopt rules governing the determination of financial need and the cost and schedule
12 of payment of room and board under this paragraph. The determination of financial
13 need must be based on a nationally recognized public or private school financial
14 needs assessment system. A student may use scholarship funds in place of payment
15 for all or part of the cost of room and board and any other fees or expenses incurred
16 as a result of that student's enrollment at the school.

17 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8232, sub-§2, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 363, §4, is
18 amended to read:

19 B. The State shall pay to the school at least \$500 for each student to cover a portion
20 of the cost of room and board for each student for the school year. Except as
21 otherwise provided in this paragraph, effective July 1, 2018, the student or the
22 student's parent or guardian shall pay to the school ~~the cost~~ any additional costs of
23 room and board for the school year. In the case of financial need, the State shall pay
24 to the school the difference between the remaining cost of room and board and the
25 student's or the student's family's ability to pay that cost. The board of trustees shall
26 establish rules governing the determination of financial need and the cost and
27 schedule of payment of room and board under this paragraph. The determination of
28 financial need must be based on a nationally recognized public or private school
29 financial needs assessment system. A student may use scholarship funds in place of
30 payment for all or part of the cost of room and board and any other fees or expenses
31 incurred as a result of that student's enrollment at the school.

32 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§14** is enacted to read:

33 **14. Adjustment per pupil for residential schools.** A school administrative unit,
34 including a public charter school, that provides residential services to students must
35 receive at least \$500 for each residential student to support the cost of room and board for
36 that student. This adjustment must be in addition to all other state funds provided to the
37 school administrative unit under this chapter.

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This bill requires that the State provide a minimum state subsidy of \$500 per
40 residential student to all school administrative units, including public charter schools, as
41 well as to magnet schools, that provide residential services.