



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 926

H.P. 654

House of Representatives, March 9, 2017

An Act To Improve Equity in State Aid to Schools

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative STEARNS of Guilford.
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: FARRIN of Norridgewock, FREDETTE of Newport, FULLER of Lewiston,
LYFORD of Eddington, SIROCKI of Scarborough, TUELL of East Machias.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§14** is enacted to read:

3 **14. Adjustment for highly funded schools.** Beginning in fiscal year 2018-19, and
4 in each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner shall decrease the state share of the total
5 allocation to a highly funded school in accordance with this subsection. For purposes of
6 this subsection, "highly funded school" means a school administrative unit whose total
7 spending on education programs and services in the most recent year for which data is
8 available exceeded 108% of the total cost of the components of essential programs and
9 services for that school administrative unit in that year, excluding any adjustment made
10 under this subsection. "Highly funded school" does not include a school administrative
11 unit with a median family income below \$40,000, as determined by the commissioner
12 using the most recent census data. The commissioner shall decrease the state share of the
13 total allocation to a highly funded school by an amount equal to the difference between
14 108% of the total cost of the components of essential programs and services for that
15 school administrative unit in the previous fiscal year and the amount spent by the school
16 administrative unit on education programs and services in that previous fiscal year.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill provides for an adjustment in the state share of the total allocation to a
19 highly funded school, which is defined as a school administrative unit whose total
20 spending on education programs and services in the most recent year for which data is
21 available exceeded 108% of the total cost of the components of essential programs and
22 services for that school administrative unit in that year, excluding any adjustment made
23 pursuant to this new provision. The Commissioner of Education is required to decrease
24 the state share of the total allocation to a highly funded school by an amount equal to the
25 difference between 108% of the total cost of the components of essential programs and
26 services for that school administrative unit in the previous fiscal year and the amount
27 spent by the school administrative unit on education programs and services in the
28 previous fiscal year.