



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1603

H.P. 1106

House of Representatives, May 16, 2017

**An Act To Provide Flexibility for Education Technology Programs
in Maine Schools**

(EMERGENCY)

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GERRISH of Lebanon. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

3 **Whereas,** the Department of Education's Maine Learning Technology Initiative has
4 for the past 3 years offered schools the opportunity to sign participation agreements under
5 which one-to-one computer devices are provided for their students and staff; and

6 **Whereas,** schools enter into participation agreements in early spring, in order to
7 allow time for technology equipment to be ordered, delivered and set up at schools in
8 time for the start of the new school year; and

9 **Whereas,** school districts and their technology directors have told the Department of
10 Education that with more flexibility, the schools could deliver more innovative
11 technology solutions to enhance student outcomes; and

12 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect immediately for schools to plan and
13 implement their technology programs in time for the start of the 2017-2018 school year;
14 and

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

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

20 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§12-A,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 354, §2,
21 is further amended to read:

22 **12-A. Learning through technology.** The commissioner may pay costs attributed
23 to staff support consisting of one Education Team and Policy Director position, 2
24 Education Specialist III positions, one Planning and Research Associate I position, one
25 Director of Special Projects position and 2 Education Specialist II positions, professional
26 development and training in the use of open educational resources and open-source
27 textbooks ~~and~~ system maintenance and grants to schools for a program that promotes
28 learning through technology. A transfer of All Other funds from the General Purpose Aid
29 for Local Schools account to the All Other line category in the Learning Through
30 Technology General Fund nonlapsing account sufficient to support the All Other costs
31 and the agreement that provides one-to-one wireless computers for 7th grade, 8th grade
32 and high school students and educators may occur annually by financial order upon
33 recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor.

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

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SUMMARY

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This bill adds education technology grants to the list of eligible uses for the funds transferred from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools account to the Learning Through Technology General Fund account.

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