



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2286

H.P. 1477

House of Representatives, April 9, 2024

Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to Review Certain Components of General Purpose Aid for Local Schools and the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula

Reported by Representative BRENNAN of Portland for the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 118, section 2.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

1 **Sec. 1. Maine Education Policy Research Institute to review certain**
2 **general purpose aid for local schools essential programs and services**
3 **components; report. Resolved:** That the Maine Policy Education Research Institute,
4 in conjunction with the Department of Education, shall:

5 1. Conduct a targeted review of general purpose aid for local schools. The review must
6 include, but is not limited to, the following components:

7 A. The State's ability to adequately fund recruitment, retention, salaries and benefits of
8 teachers and support staff, which represent the largest portion of the cost of public
9 education;

10 B. Property valuation and its efficacy in determining municipal contribution levels to
11 public education;

12 C. Regional differences in education costs and contributing factors to these differences;
13 and

14 D. Funding mechanisms used in other states to distribute funding for public education;

15 2. Conduct a review of components of the essential programs and services funding
16 formula under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B that have been
17 identified as driving inequity within the formula, including, but not limited to:

18 A. Expenditure-driven components, with particular attention to special education costs;

19 B. The determination of a municipality's ability to pay;

20 C. The regional adjustment under Title 20-A, section 15682; and

21 D. Adjustments to the state share of the total allocation, including, but not limited to,
22 adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A and Title 20-A, sections 15689
23 and 15689-A.

24 In conducting the review, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute and the
25 Department of Education shall include stakeholder representatives from regions throughout
26 the State, including, but not limited to, superintendents, school board members, school
27 business officers, principals, teachers, directors of special services and career and technical
28 education directors. The Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall recommend
29 potential adjustments to the essential programs and services funding formula to be modeled
30 by the department, and the department shall model the recommended potential adjustments
31 to the essential programs and services funding formula; and

32 3. Assess the review of essential programs and services components required pursuant
33 to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15686-A and make recommendations
34 regarding improvements to the review process, including, but not limited to, the established
35 timeline and opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

36 No later than March 15, 2025, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall
37 submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
38 education matters with the institute's findings and recommendations, including the results
39 of any modeling of potential adjustments to the essential programs and services funding
40 formula conducted. The joint standing committee may submit legislation related to the
41 report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.



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LD 2286

LR 3115(01)

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Fiscal Note for Original Bill
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Review to be completed within budgeted resources

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation requires the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) to conduct a review of certain components of general purpose aid and the essential programs and services (EPS) funding formula in conjunction with the Department of Education. Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 20-A, section 10 established the Education Research Institute to collect and analyze education information and perform targeted education research for the Legislature. The Legislature contracts with the University of Maine System to maintain the institute and ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 per year are included in the Learning Systems Team program account within the Department of Education to support the work of the institute. The Department of Education also contracts with MEPRI for updating of the essential programs and services components and ongoing funding of \$250,000 per year is included in the annual appropriation for the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools (GPA) program. This fiscal note assumes that the work required in this bill to be performed by MEPRI will be paid for with the funding included in the Learning Systems Team or GPA budget for fiscal year 2024-25 and enacted in Public Law 2023, chapter 17 and that the cost of the review will not exceed the \$500,000 already appropriated for fiscal year 2024-25. Given these assumptions, no General Fund appropriations for the cost to MEPRI to conduct the required review are included in this bill.

Additional costs to the Department of Education to work in conjunction with MEPRI on the review can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.