



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 674

S.P. 236

In Senate, February 28, 2017

**An Act To Provide Public Charter Schools with Access to State
Funds for Capital Expenses**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MASON of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative POULIOT of Augusta and
Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec, Representatives: GINZLER of Bridgton, STEWART of
Presque Isle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2413-A, sub-§2, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2015, c. 54, §5, is
3 amended to read:

4 A. For each public charter school, the total allocation must be determined as follows.

5 (1) The total allocation must be calculated pursuant to section 15683-B, based on
6 the student's grade level and adjusted as appropriate for economically
7 disadvantaged students and limited English proficiency students pursuant to
8 section 15675, subsections 1 and 2. Debt service ~~and capital outlays~~ may not be
9 included in the calculation of these allocations. The department shall adopt rules
10 governing how to calculate per-pupil allocations, including those for targeted
11 funds for assessment, technology and kindergarten to grade 2 programs. The
12 rules must allow for an inclusion in the per-pupil allocation of an amount for
13 capital expenses that allows a public charter school to qualify for federal charter
14 school program grants under 20 United States Code, Section 7221b.

15 (2) For students attending public charter schools, the payments for public charter
16 schools must be made pursuant to section 15683-B, subsection 6.

17 (3) For transportation expenses, the transportation operating allocation must be
18 the statewide per-pupil essential programs and services transportation operating
19 allocation multiplied by pupil counts determined under section 15683-B,
20 subsection 2, paragraph A multiplied by the percentage established by the
21 commission for the public charter school based on the cost of transportation
22 services provided by the public charter school to the student, but not to exceed
23 100%.

24 (4) The department shall pay to the public charter school any additional
25 allocation assigned to the public charter school for gifted and talented students
26 pursuant to section 15681-A, subsection 5 in the year in which the allocation is
27 assigned.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill allows a per-pupil allocation for capital expenses to be added to the essential
30 programs and services funding formula for public charter schools that do not have access
31 to capital funds from the State or from a school administrative district.