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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
126TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 534, L.D. 783, Bill, “An Act To Change the Voting Requirements for the Withdrawal of a Municipality from a Regional School Unit”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1.

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §1466, sub-§9-A,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 678, Pt. J, §2, is amended to read:

**9-A. Required vote; exception for a municipality of a school administrative district that was reformulated as a regional school unit.** A 2/3 vote of those casting valid votes in the municipality is required before a municipality that is a member municipality of a school administrative district that was reformulated as a regional school unit pursuant to Public Law 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX, section 36, subsection 12 may withdraw from the regional school unit.

~~This subsection is repealed January 1, 2015.'~~

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 6 and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §1466, sub-§13,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 167, Pt. A, §2, is further amended to read:

**13. Determination of results; execution of agreement.** Except for a school administrative district that was reformulated as a regional school unit pursuant to Public Law 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX, section 36, subsection 12, if the commissioner finds that a majority of the voters voting on the article has voted in the affirmative ~~and the total number of votes cast for and against the article equal or exceed 50% of the total number of votes cast in the municipality for Governor at the last gubernatorial election,~~ the commissioner shall notify the municipal officers and the regional school unit board to take steps for the withdrawal in accordance with the terms of the agreement for withdrawal. For a municipality that is part of a school administrative district that was reformulated as a regional school unit pursuant to Public Law 2007, chapter 240, Part

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 XXXX, section 36, subsection 12, if the commissioner finds that at least 2/3 of the votes  
 2 validly cast in the municipality are in the affirmative, the commissioner shall notify the  
 3 municipal officers and the regional school unit board to take steps for the withdrawal in  
 4 accordance with the terms of the agreement for withdrawal.

5 ~~This subsection is repealed January 1, 2015.~~

6 Amend the bill by adding after section 7 the following:

7 **'Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 8 allocations are made.

9 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

10 **General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

11 Initiative: Provides funds for the State's share of the increased cost of K-12 public  
 12 education as a result of municipalities withdrawing from regional school units.

13	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
14	All Other	\$0	\$643,500
15			
16	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$643,500</u>

17 **School Finance and Operations Z078**

18 Initiative: Provides funds for one Education Specialist II position and one Education  
 19 Specialist III position and related all other costs through June 30, 2016 to support the  
 20 anticipated increase in workload associated with the withdrawal process of individual  
 21 municipalities from regional school units.

22	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
23	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
24	Personal Services	\$174,087	\$178,910
25	All Other	\$4,316	\$4,016
26			
27	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$178,403</u>	<u>\$182,926</u>

28 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**  
 29 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

30		<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
31	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$178,403</b>	<b>\$826,426</b>
32			
33	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$178,403</b></u>	<u><b>\$826,426</b></u>

34  
 35 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
 36 section number to read consecutively.

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, strikes the provision in the bill that requires that a facilitator to oversee negotiations must be appointed if, after 90 days of its formation, the withdrawal committee that is selected by the municipality seeking to withdraw from the regional school unit fails to reach an agreement with the regional school unit. The amendment also updates a section of law that was amended in Public Law 2013, chapter 167, Part A, section 2 to avoid a conflict. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**