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Legislative Document

No. 673

S.P. 286

In Senate, February 25, 2025

An Act to Better Support the Educational Attainment of Low-income and Moderate-income Communities by Providing Additional Funding to Certain School Administrative Units

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 114-B** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 114-B**

4 **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

5 **§2661. Educational Opportunity Grant Program**

6 **1. Program created.** The Educational Opportunity Grant Program, referred to in this
7 chapter as "the program," is created within the department to provide grants to improve
8 educational opportunities for and achievement of students in low-income and moderate-
9 income communities.

10 **2. Use of funds.** The department shall award grants from the program to school
11 administrative units in which the average personal income of the member municipalities is
12 below the state average. Funds awarded from the program may be used only for school
13 administrative unit programs designed to raise the educational standards of all students in
14 the school administrative unit. Balances remaining in the Educational Opportunity Grant
15 Program, General Fund account at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward for
16 use by the program in the next fiscal year.

17 **3. Rulemaking.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including,
18 but not limited to, rules governing procedures, criteria and priorities for awarding grants.
19 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
20 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill creates the Educational Opportunity Grant Program to provide grants to school
23 administrative units in which the average personal income of the member municipalities is
24 below the state average for programs designed to raise educational standards.