

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill in section 2 in §2513 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 3, lines 16 to 20 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

2. Approval. If the commissioner finds that an application under section 2512 contains the information required to be submitted pursuant to subsection 1, the commissioner shall notify each school administrative unit participating in the cooperative agreement that, pending ratification as set forth in subsection 3, the cooperative is approved pursuant to this chapter. The commissioner shall keep a register of cooperatives that have been approved and ratified pursuant to this chapter.

Amend the bill in section 2 in §2513 by striking out all of subsection 3 (page 3, lines 21 to 24 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

3. School board ratification. If the commissioner finds that an application for a cooperative is approved pursuant to subsection 2, the cooperative must be approved by a majority of the members of the school board of each school administrative unit involved in the cooperative before the cooperative becomes effective.

Amend the bill in section 2 in §2514 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 3, lines 30 to 32 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

2. Renewal of cooperative. A cooperative may be renewed only upon ratification by a majority of the members of each school board involved in the cooperative in accordance with this chapter.

SUMMARY

This amendment removes the provisions in the bill that establish a limit of 20 cooperative agreements that may be in operation at any time. The amendment also provides that, if the Commissioner of Education finds that an application for a cooperative agreement contains the information required to be included in the application, the commissioner shall notify the school administrative units participating in the cooperative agreement that the application is approved, pending a ratification vote by each of the school boards of the participating school administrative units. The amendment further provides that, instead of requiring reapplication to the commissioner in addition to the vote as proposed in the bill, a cooperative agreement may be renewed upon a ratification vote to renew the cooperative agreement by each of the school boards of the participating school administrative units.