An Act To Provide School Districts with Full State Funding for Students with High-cost Special Education Needs

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

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship and Senators: BELLOWS of Kennebec, CHIPMAN of Cumberland, LIBBY of Androscoggin, MILLETT of Cumberland, Representatives: BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, DODGE of Belfast, RYKERSON of Kittery.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15681-A, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Full state funding for high-cost special education students. Beginning July 1, 2020, a school administrative unit must receive additional funds for each high-cost special education placement equal to the amount by which that placement's estimated costs exceed the statewide average EPS per-pupil rate. The funds provided pursuant to this subsection are in place of, and not in addition to, state funds received pursuant to subsection 2 or any other funding provided pursuant to this chapter;

SUMMARY

This bill requires the State, beginning July 1, 2020, to provide a school administrative unit 100% of the funding needed for high-cost special education students.