



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1641

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S.P. 531

In Senate, April 25, 2019

### An Act To Strengthen the School Transportation Workforce

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested 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 HERBIG of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Representative CUDDY of Winterport and

Senator: MILLETT of Cumberland, Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, DODGE of Belfast, FECTEAU of Biddeford, PERRY of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5403** is enacted to read:

3 **§5403. Fund for Transportation Training**

4 **1. Fund created.** The Fund for Transportation Training, referred to in this section as  
5 "the fund," is created to assist in financing the cost of local and regional training for  
6 public school bus drivers. The fund is a dedicated, nonlapsing account within the  
7 department.

8 **2. Use of fund.** The department shall award grants from the fund to school  
9 administrative units for training developed and delivered by them to school bus drivers  
10 between academic years.

11 **3. Sources of money.** The fund consists of amounts appropriated or allocated by the  
12 State and any gifts or grants made to the department for the purpose of deposit in the  
13 fund.

14 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted  
15 pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
16 subchapter 2-A.

17 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1192, sub-§7, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1983, c. 13, §7, is  
18 further amended to read:

19 B. With respect to weeks of unemployment beginning after September 3, 1982, in  
20 any other capacity for an educational institution, benefits ~~shall~~ may not be paid on the  
21 basis of those services to any individual for any week ~~which~~ that commences during a  
22 period between 2 successive academic years or terms if the individual performs those  
23 services in the first of the academic years or terms and there is annual written  
24 reasonable assurance that the individual will perform the services in the 2nd of ~~that~~  
25 those academic ~~year~~ years or terms; except that if benefits are denied to any  
26 individual under this paragraph and the individual was not offered an opportunity to  
27 perform the services for the educational institution for the 2nd of those academic  
28 years or terms, the individual ~~shall be~~ is entitled to a retroactive payment of benefits  
29 for each week for which the individual filed a timely claim for benefits and for which  
30 benefits were denied solely by reason of this paragraph. Notwithstanding this  
31 paragraph, a school bus driver employed by a school administrative unit as defined in  
32 Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 26 may be paid on the basis of services rendered in a  
33 prior academic year;

34 **SUMMARY**

35 This bill allows public school bus drivers to collect unemployment benefits over the  
36 summer. It also creates a nonlapsing fund to award grants to school administrative units  
37 for training for school bus drivers between academic years.