



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1850

LR 2782(01)

Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula

Fiscal Note for Original Bill
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	Projections FY 2015-16	Projections FY 2016-17
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study commission are projected to be \$1,500 in fiscal year 2013-14 and \$3,000 in fiscal year 2014-15. The Legislature's proposed budget includes \$10,000 in fiscal year 2013-14 and \$10,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 for legislative studies. Whether the amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs of providing drafting assistance to the study commission can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$10,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the Department of Education for the costs associated with contracting with a staffing agency to provide assistance to the commission.

Current law requires the Department of Education to contract with a statewide education research institute for the 1) updating of the essential programs and services components (Title 20-A, §15689-A, sub-§3) and 2) the compilation and analysis of education data (Title 20-A, §15689-A, sub-§6). For fiscal year 2014-15, \$250,000 is currently budgeted within the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools General Fund program account for each of these contracts, for a total of \$500,000. This legislation requires that, for fiscal year 2014-15 only, the Department of Education not contract with a statewide education research institute for the purposes established in current law, but instead allows these funds to be utilized to support the work of the Commission.

Pursuant to Public Law 2013, Chapter 368, Part F, the Governor's Office of Policy and Management identified potential savings for fiscal year 2014-15 and submitted its recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on October 2, 2013. The report included a recommendation to eliminate the \$500,000 in funding for both of the contracts listed in the paragraph above. Part F authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature. Whether this recommendation will be included in legislation that may be reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs can not be determined at this time. If the recommendation is included and the legislation is approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, this funding will not be available to support the work of the Commission. Unless an alternative funding source is identified or a General Fund appropriation is provided, the Commission may not be able to complete all of the requirements of this legislation.