An Act To Amend the Regional Adjustment Index To Ensure School Districts Do Not Receive Less than the State Average for Teacher Salaries

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 28, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15682, as amended by PL 2011, c. 419, §2, is further amended to read:

§15682. Regional adjustment

The commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary and benefits costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary and benefit costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679. Beginning in fiscal year 2012-13, and for each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679. Beginning in fiscal year 2022-23 and for each subsequent fiscal year, a school administrative unit may not receive a regional adjustment that results in a decrease in the unit's allocation for teacher salary costs under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that, beginning in fiscal year 2022-23, when the Commissioner of Education makes the regional adjustment to the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit, the commissioner may not make an adjustment that decreases a school administrative unit's allocation for teacher and other school-level staff salary costs.