

HB 529-FN-A-LOCAL - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

22Feb2023... 0544h

2023 SESSION

23-0524

10/04

HOUSE BILL

***529-FN-A-LOCAL***

AN ACT                    relative to additional aid grants for schools based on free and reduced price meals and fiscal capacity disparity.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Fellows, Graf. 8; Rep. Luneau, Merr. 9; Rep. Ames, Ches. 13; Rep. Heath, Hills. 41; Rep. Cascadden, Coos 5; Rep. Myler, Merr. 9

COMMITTEE:          Education

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes 2 additional aid grants for schools based on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals and municipal fiscal capacity disparity, creates accountability measures for such grants, and allows for one-time exceptions of certain school funding laws for the availability of unanticipated funds to school districts.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

AN ACT                      relative to additional aid grants for schools based on free and reduced price meals and fiscal capacity disparity.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1 New Sections; Additional Aid Grants for Schools. Amend RSA 198 by inserting after section  
2 40-f the following new sections:

3            198:40-g Additional Aid Based on the Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals.

4            I. In a municipality where 48 percent or more of the ADMR is eligible to receive a free or  
5 reduced-priced meal, an additional \$700 times the ADMR of students eligible for a free or reduced-  
6 priced meal.

7            II. In a municipality where at least 12 percent but less than 48 percent of the ADMR is  
8 eligible to receive a free or reduced-priced meal, \$87.50 plus \$0.17014 for each 0.01 percent by which  
9 its free or reduced-priced meal eligibility rate exceeds 12 percent, times the ADMR of students  
10 eligible for a free or reduced-priced meal.

11           III. A municipality in which less than 12 percent of the ADMR are eligible to receive a free  
12 or reduced-priced meal shall receive no additional aid under this section.

13           198:40-h Additional Aid Based on Fiscal Capacity Disparity.

14           I. Each biennium the commissioner shall calculate fiscal capacity disparity aid and provide  
15 that amount of aid in each year of the biennium to a municipality as follows:

16           (a) A municipality with an equalized valuation per ADMR of \$600,000 or less shall  
17 receive \$2,000 per pupil in the municipality's ADMR.

18           (b) A municipality with an equalized valuation per ADMR greater than \$600,000 but  
19 less than \$1,600,000 shall receive 0.0020 cents for each dollar of difference between its equalized  
20 valuation per ADMR and \$1,600,000, per pupil in the municipality's ADMR.

21           (c) A municipality with an equalized valuation per ADMR of \$1,600,000 or more shall  
22 receive no fiscal capacity disparity aid.

23           II. In this section, "equalized valuation" means a municipality's equalized valuation,  
24 including properties subject to taxation under RSA 82 and RSA 83-F, as determined by the  
25 department of revenue administration, that was the basis for the local tax assessment in the  
26 determination year.

27           2 New Subparagraphs; Determination of Final Adequate Education Grants. Amend RSA  
28 198:41, I by inserting after subparagraph (e) the following new subparagraphs:

29           (f) Add the municipality's additional aid based on the percentage eligible for free or  
30 reduced-price meals pursuant to RSA 198:40-g.

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1           (g) Add the municipality's additional aid based on fiscal capacity disparity pursuant to  
2 RSA 198:40-h.

3           3 New Section; School Money; Adequate Education; Education Trust Fund; Accountability for  
4 Grants. Amend RSA 198 by inserting after section 41 the following new section:

5           194:41-a Accountability for Grants.

6           I. In order to receive a grant under RSA 198:40-g or RSA 198:40-h, the eligible school district  
7 shall provide a plan to the department of education outlining how the district intends to use grant  
8 award funds to improve the educational achievement and growth of students. The plan shall include  
9 an accountability component designed to generate data that measures student academic  
10 achievement and growth of knowledge and skills in reading and language arts and/or mathematics  
11 at what grade levels funds will be used. The school district shall develop and administer its own  
12 grant accountability assessment that identifies a pupil's range of learning and yields objective data  
13 to use in improving instruction and learning, or use the statewide assessment.

14           II. The school district shall submit to the department an annual grant accountability  
15 progress report that includes evidence of satisfactory program implementation and progress toward  
16 grant accountability improvement targets, as described in paragraph I of this section. The primary  
17 goal of this grant is to improve student achievement and growth and to help the school district to  
18 have funding for successful, best practice student learning approaches. The accountability plan will  
19 not be a conditional requirement to receive the grant if the grant award as estimated on November  
20 15 pursuant to RSA 198:41, V is less than \$50,000.

21           4 School Districts; Unanticipated Funds Available; Special Meetings.

22           I. Notwithstanding RSA 198:20-b and RSA 198:48, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,  
23 a school district may accept and expend unanticipated funds from the education trust fund which  
24 may become available during the year as a result of adjustments to the calculation of adequate  
25 education grant amounts.

26           II. Notwithstanding RSA 197:3, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, a school district at  
27 a special meeting may make adjustments to the district's operating budget due to adjustments to the  
28 calculation of adequate education grant amounts.

29           5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

LBA  
23-0524  
1/9/23

**HB 529-FN-A-LOCAL- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT                    relative to additional aid grants for schools based on free and reduced price meals and fiscal capacity disparity.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Due to time constraints, the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to provide a fiscal note for this bill, **as introduced**, at this time. When completed, the fiscal note will be forwarded to the House Clerk's Office.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Education