



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 22

LR 129(01)

An Act to Update the Laws Governing Education in the Unorganized Territory

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Sen. Rafferty of York

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Reimbursing parents for the transportation of elementary school children residing in the unorganized territory will increase the cost to the Education in the Unorganized Territory (EUT) program within the Department of Education beginning in fiscal year 2025-26. The department anticipates that sufficient funds will be available within the program's proposed appropriation levels for the 2026-2027 biennium to support the cost of this provision and additional General Fund appropriations will not be required at this time. Whether or not additional General Fund appropriations will be needed in future biennia will depend on the number of students residing in the unorganized territory that need to have their parents provide transportation, the number of miles traveled each day and the mileage reimbursement rate.

General Fund expenditures from the EUT program are fully reimbursed by the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund. The expenditures incurred from this bill are not expected to impact the amount of taxes collected through the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Tax, which is levied on all nonexempt real and personal property located in the Unorganized Territory Tax District, in fiscal year 2025-26. The impact of this provision on taxpayers in the unorganized territory in future biennia cannot be determined at this time.