

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 930

H.P. 705

House of Representatives, March 1, 2007

### **An Act To Regionalize Supervision of Students in the Unorganized Territory**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SAVIELLO of Wilton.  
Cosponsored by Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook and  
Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, CARTER of Bethel, CLARK of Millinocket, CLEARY of Houlton, FINLEY of Skowhegan, GIFFORD of Lincoln, McLEOD of Lee, PATRICK of Rumford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 119, sub-c. 6** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 6**

4 **REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

5 **§3501. Regionalization**

6 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall, by rules adopted  
7 in accordance with this subchapter, establish 4 administrative districts to manage and  
8 administer schools within the unorganized territory.

9 1. **Districts.** The 4 districts must be established by rules adopted by the  
10 commissioner and include a western district, a central district, an eastern district and a  
11 northern district. The commissioner shall work with county and local officials in  
12 developing the jurisdictional lines of the 4 districts.

13 2. **Administrative structure.** The commissioner by rule shall establish the  
14 administrative structure within each district and the manner of appointing or electing and  
15 the terms of superintendents for each district.

16 3. **Authority.** Once appropriate districts have been established and district  
17 superintendents elected or appointed, each superintendent may, in accordance with rules  
18 adopted by the commissioner, exercise all administrative responsibilities and authority of  
19 the commissioner under this chapter with respect to students within that superintendent's  
20 respective district and may hire such personnel as necessary to carry out these  
21 administrative responsibilities.

22 4. **Rules.** Rules adopted under this section are major substantive rules as defined in  
23 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

24 **Sec. 2. Report.** By January 1, 2008, the Commissioner of Education shall  
25 provisionally adopt and submit to the Legislature rules in accordance with the Maine  
26 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 3501. The commissioner shall also submit to the  
27 Joint Standing Committee on Education, at the same time it submits the provisionally  
28 adopted rules, draft legislation that amends current law as necessary to facilitate and  
29 conform to the unorganized territory school district system established by the rules. The  
30 Joint Standing Committee on Education may submit a bill related to the unorganized  
31 territory school district system to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill establishes a 4-district school administrative system for the unorganized  
34 territory. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop rules to transfer  
35 state management of the school systems in the unorganized territory to these 4 districts.  
36 The commissioner is required to submit to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd

1 Legislature provisionally adopted rules and proposed legislation necessary to accomplish  
2 this transfer of responsibility. The Joint Standing Committee on Education is authorized  
3 to report out a bill related to the unorganized territory school district system to the Second  
4 Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.