

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 3

H.P. 6

House of Representatives, January 7, 2015

**An Act To Ensure Consistent Certification of Graduation Standards
in Publicly Funded Secondary Schools**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HUBBELL of Bar Harbor.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** beginning January 1, 2017, public schools and private schools that enroll
4 at least 60% publicly funded students must implement curricula designed to enable
5 students to demonstrate proficiency in certain areas to award diplomas indicating
6 graduation; and

7 **Whereas,** public charter schools are not currently required to implement curricula
8 designed to enable students to demonstrate proficiency in certain areas to award diplomas
9 indicating graduation; and

10 **Whereas,** public charter schools are publicly funded alternatives to public schools
11 and private schools that enroll at least 60% publicly funded students; and

12 **Whereas,** all publicly funded schools should implement curricula designed to enable
13 students to demonstrate the proficiencies necessary to receive a diploma indicating
14 graduation from a secondary school; and

15 **Whereas,** secondary schools require the greatest amount of advance notice of
16 applicable requirements to develop curricula to enable students to demonstrate the
17 proficiencies necessary to receive a diploma indicating graduation from a secondary
18 school; and

19 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
20 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
21 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
22 therefore,

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

24 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6202, first ¶,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 313, §20, is
25 further amended to read:

26 The commissioner shall establish a statewide assessment program to measure and
27 evaluate on a continuing basis the academic achievements of students in grades 3 to 12 on
28 the accountability standards set forth in section 6209 and in department rules
29 implementing that section and other curricular requirements. The commissioner may
30 elect to provide for the use of alternative measures of student achievement in grades 9 to
31 12. This assessment applies to students in the public elementary and secondary schools,
32 in public charter schools, as that term is defined in section 2401, subsection 9, and in all
33 private schools approved for tuition whose school enrollments include at least 60%
34 publicly funded students, as determined by the previous school year's October and April
35 average enrollment. The assessment program must be adapted to meet the needs of
36 children with disabilities as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-A or other students as
37 defined under rules by the commissioner.

