

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/3/15

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 87, L.D. 129, Bill, "An Act To Provide Options to Schools for Making Up School Days"

Amend the bill after the title and before the enacting clause by inserting the following.

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

Whereas, last winter's weather conditions included blizzards and snowstorms that set records for the amount of snowfall in many regions of the State, which caused the cancellation of a significant number of school days in many school administrative units due to dangerous road and travel conditions; and

Whereas, Department of Education Rule Chapter 125 provides that a school board may reschedule cancelled school days by conducting classes on the weekend, rescheduling or shortening scheduled vacation periods or postponing the scheduled closing date of the school year; and

Whereas, providing school administrative units with the additional option of adding make-up instructional time during existing school days would provide school boards with greater flexibility in determining how to meet the minimum school year calendar requirements; and

Whereas, because Rule Chapter 125 is a major substantive rule, changes to the rule require legislative review before the changes may be made; and

Whereas, the Legislature has the authority to direct the Department of Education to amend its rule to reflect legislative policy determinations; and

Whereas, the Department of Education and school boards need statutory and rule revisions for the acceptable methods established for rescheduling cancelled school days in order for school administrative units to have another option to meet the minimum school year calendar requirements for this school year; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 extensions only to make up school days missed because of weather or emergency
2 closures. The amendment requires approval of the Commissioner of Education for
3 implementation of extensions.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 129

LR 677(02)

An Act To Provide Options to Schools for Making Up School Days

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-37)
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Allowing school administrative units to extend a school day by one hour each day for up to 25 school days missed each school year due to weather or emergency closures may result in increased costs to local school administrative units. Because this provision is permissive, any additional costs will be paid as part of the budgeted resources of each individual school administrative unit.

Additional costs to the Department of Education associated with the rulemaking process can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.