

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1250

H.P. 850

House of Representatives, April 7, 2015

An Act To Reform Public Charter Schools

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GIDEON of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, TIPPING-SPITZ of
Orono.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2403, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 414, §5, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Information and technical assistance.** The department shall disseminate
5 information on how to form and operate a public charter school ~~and~~ on how to enroll in
6 a public charter school once the school is created and on financial and contract matters of
7 existing public charter schools. Upon receipt of information received from a public
8 charter school under section 2412, subsection 4, paragraph F and section 2412-A,
9 subsection 6, the department shall post that information on a publicly accessible portion
10 of the department's website. The department may provide assistance and guidance to
11 authorizers in developing effective authorization and oversight procedures.

12 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §2412, sub-§4, ¶F** is enacted to read:

13 F. A public charter school must provide the department with information detailing
14 every contract that the public charter school executes, including a lease, an
15 employment contract or an agreement with an outside provider of materials or
16 supplies or maintenance, administrative, food or educational services.

17 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §2412, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

18 **8. Governing boards.** A public charter school shall post notice for a meeting of the
19 public charter school's governing board, including the date and time of the meeting, on a
20 publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website at least 30 days in
21 advance of the meeting. Governing board meetings must be open to the public. The
22 governing board shall ensure that accurate minutes are taken of a meeting of the
23 governing board and post those minutes on a publicly accessible portion of the public
24 charter school's website within 48 hours after the meeting has adjourned.

25 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §2413, sub-§2, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 414, §5, is
26 amended to read:

27 D. A public charter school may receive gifts and grants from private sources in any
28 manner that is available to a school administrative unit. A gift or grant under this
29 paragraph may not be conditional upon the public charter school's removing a staff
30 member or teacher of the public charter school.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill amends the laws governing public charter schools by:

33 1. Requiring the Department of Education to post the annual audit of a public charter
34 school and information concerning every contract entered into by a public charter school
35 on a publicly accessible portion of the department's website.

36 2. Requiring a public charter school to provide the Department of Education with
37 information on every contract executed by the public charter school, including leases,

1 employment contracts or agreements with outside providers of materials or supplies or
2 maintenance, administrative, food or educational services.

3 3. Requiring that notice for governing board meetings of public charter schools be
4 posted on a publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website at least 30
5 days before the meeting, that governing board meetings be open to the public and the
6 governing board take accurate minutes of the meeting and post those minutes on a
7 publicly accessible portion of the public charter school's website within 48 hours after
8 adjournment of the meeting.

9 4. Prohibiting a public charter school from accepting a gift or grant that is
10 conditional upon the removal of a staff member or teacher of the public charter school.