



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document	No. 95
S.P. 43	In Senate, January 17, 2017

An Act To Provide a Method for a Student To Be Excused from **Standardized Testing**

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

Heath & Pruit

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Representative ESPLING of New Gloucester and Senators: MASON of Androscoggin, WOODSOME of York, Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, DUNPHY of Old Town.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6215 is enacted to read:
3	<u>§6215. Opt-out</u>
4 5 6 7	1. Parent's or guardian's right to opt out. If a student's parent or guardian submits a written request to a school administrative unit to excuse the student from a standardized assessment administered pursuant to this chapter, the school administrative unit shall comply with the request and excuse the student in conformance with the request.
8 9	2. School administrative unit. A school administrative unit may not penalize a student for being excused from an assessment pursuant to subsection 1 and shall:
10 11	A. Inform parents and guardians of the option to excuse a student from an assessment;
12 13	B. Provide a student excused from an assessment with an educational activity while the assessment is being administered; and
14 15	C. Post the form created by the department under subsection 3, paragraph A on the school administrative unit's publicly accessible website.
16 17	3. Department. The department may not penalize a school for excusing a student from an assessment pursuant to subsection 1 and shall:
18 19 20	A. Create a form that a parent or guardian can use to request that a student be excused from an assessment and shall post the form on the department's publicly accessible website; and
21 22	B. Notify parents and guardians of the option to excuse a student from an assessment by posting notice on the department's publicly accessible website.
23 24	4. Teachers. A teacher may inform a parent or guardian of the option to excuse a student from an assessment pursuant to subsection 1.
25	SUMMARY
26 27 28	This bill requires a school administrative unit to excuse a student from a standardized assessment at the written request of the student's parent or guardian and establishes requirements for school administrative units and the Department of Education related to

29 excusing a student.