

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1029

H.P. 759

House of Representatives, February 28, 2019

**An Act To Expand Educational Opportunities for Students
Attending Public Secondary Schools with Enrollments of 300 or
Fewer Students**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft.
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, ALLEY of Beals, STANLEY of Medway, VEROW
of Brewer.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4730** is enacted to read:

3 **§4730. Academic opportunity programs**

4 **1. Secondary schools with more than 300 students.** A private or public secondary
5 school with more than 300 students shall enter into an agreement with any secondary
6 school with 300 or fewer students to establish an academic opportunity program at the
7 smaller school that makes available to students of that school courses and academic
8 programs at the larger school, including, but not limited to, advanced placement courses,
9 international baccalaureate programs and early college programs.

10 **2. Secondary schools with 300 or fewer students.** A secondary school with 300 or
11 fewer students shall establish an academic opportunity program in accordance with the
12 agreements entered into pursuant to subsection 1 and inform its resident students of the
13 program.

14 **3. School administrative units; policies and procedures; report.** The school
15 administrative unit of a secondary school with 300 or fewer students shall develop
16 policies and procedures for the school's academic opportunity program. The school
17 administrative unit shall report annually to the department the number of students
18 participating in the program and the number of courses and academic programs accessed
19 through the program.

20 **4. Rates; rulemaking.** The department shall establish tuition rates for students
21 participating in an academic opportunity program under this section and shall publish the
22 rates on the department's publicly accessible website. The department shall adopt rules to
23 implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical
24 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

25 **5. Transportation.** A secondary school with an academic opportunity program
26 under this section and the school providing access to its courses are not responsible for
27 providing transportation for a student in the academic opportunity program who requires
28 transportation to a secondary school outside the student's resident school administrative
29 unit in order to participate.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill requires private and public secondary schools with more than 300 students
32 to enter into contracts with secondary schools with 300 or fewer students to establish
33 academic opportunity programs that make available to resident students of the smaller
34 schools the courses and academic programs of the larger schools, including, but not
35 limited to, advanced placement courses, international baccalaureate programs and early
36 college programs. The bill also requires the secondary schools with 300 or fewer students
37 to inform their resident students of the academic opportunity program and provides that
38 the schools participating in an academic opportunity program are not responsible for
39 providing transportation to participating students.