

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1174

S.P. 360

In Senate, March 12, 2019

An Act To Facilitate Remote Learning during School Cancellations

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, LAWRENCE of York, LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, DOUDERA of Camden, EVANGELOS of Friendship, LANDRY of Farmington, McCREIGHT of Harpswell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §4801, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

3 **4. Online alternative for unscheduled school closures.** If a school day is cancelled
4 due to weather or another emergency reason, the day is counted as a school day under
5 subsection 1 if the students of the school receive adequate online instruction pursuant to a
6 plan agreed upon and adopted by the school board and the superintendent of the school
7 administrative unit of the school and forwarded to the department. A plan adopted under
8 this subsection must include an alternative instruction method for a student who does not
9 have the technical capability to participate in online instruction. The department may
10 make recommendations on a plan submitted by a school administrative unit under this
11 subsection and the school administrative unit shall consider the recommendations at the
12 next scheduled meeting of the unit's school board. A school administrative unit is not
13 required to accept or implement a recommendation concerning a plan from the
14 department under this subsection.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill allows a school to receive credit for a school day that is cancelled due to
17 weather or another emergency reason if the students of the school receive adequate online
18 instruction or alternative method for students without the technical capability to
19 participate in online instruction pursuant to a plan agreed upon and adopted by the school
20 board and the superintendent of the school administrative unit of the school. The school
21 administrative unit is directed to forward the plan to the Department of Education, which
22 may make recommendations on the plan. The school administrative unit is not required
23 to implement a recommendation concerning the plan made by the department.