

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 1860

H.P. 1331

House of Representatives, December 23, 2019

An Act To Establish a Process for the Consideration and Implementation of Changes to School Curricula

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2019. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, FARNSWORTH of Portland,
INGWERSEN of Arundel, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4710-C** is enacted to read:

3 **§4710-C. Establishment or substantial expansion of mandated instruction or**
4 **training**

5 A joint standing committee of the Legislature that considers proposed legislation to
6 establish mandated instruction or training for students in elementary or secondary school
7 not required under this Title or rules adopted pursuant to this Title or substantially expand
8 mandated instruction or training for students in elementary or secondary school shall
9 evaluate the proposed legislation in accordance with this section.

10 **1. Request to commissioner.** Upon referral to a joint standing committee of the
11 Legislature of legislation that proposes new or substantially expanded mandated
12 instruction or training, the joint standing committee shall, without a public hearing,
13 briefly and informally review the proposal. Following this informal review, the
14 committee shall request that the commissioner convene a review committee composed of
15 teachers, administrators, and content specialists within the department to conduct an
16 evaluation of the proposal.

17 **2. Evaluation.** The review committee established by the commissioner pursuant to
18 subsection 1 shall review the legislation that proposes to establish or substantially expand
19 mandated instruction or training and shall identify whether the subject of the proposal is
20 already addressed within existing courses of study aligned with the system of learning
21 results as established in section 6209. If the subject of the proposal is not already
22 addressed within existing courses of study, the review committee shall analyze the impact
23 of establishing or substantially expanding the mandated instruction or training contained
24 in the proposal and shall specifically consider issues of availability of resources, staff
25 expertise, the number of required courses of study that exist in accordance with the
26 system of learning results and the available hours of instruction.

27 **3. Recommendations.** The commissioner shall submit a final report containing the
28 commissioner's recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature that
29 requested the review pursuant to this section that includes any legislation required to
30 implement the commissioner's recommendations. The commissioner may recommend
31 that no legislative action be taken on a proposal.

32 **4. Rulemaking.** The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section.
33 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
34 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill requires that, upon referral of proposed legislation to establish or
37 substantially expand mandated instruction or training in public schools, the joint standing
38 committee of the Legislature considering the proposal must request that the
39 Commissioner of Education convene a review committee to review whether the subject of

1 the proposal is already addressed within existing courses of study aligned with the system
2 of learning results and, if it is not, analyze the impact of establishing or substantially
3 expanding the mandated instruction or training, including the availability of resources,
4 staff expertise, the number of required courses of study that already exist and the
5 available hours of instruction. The commissioner is directed to submit a final report to
6 the joint standing committee that includes any legislation required to implement the
7 commissioner's recommendations.