

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 546

H. P. 429

House of Representatives, February 14, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Chonko of Topsham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to Requirements for Physical Education and Minimum School Year for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 855, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 746, § 11-A, is further amended to read:

§ 855. Equal school privileges for all pupils

The school moneys of every administrative unit shall be so expended as to give as nearly as practicable the same aggregate annual length of terms in all its schools, and every administrative unit shall ~~make provision for the maintenance of all of its schools for not less than 180 days annually of which not less than 175 shall be actual school days and no more than 5 may be devoted to in-service education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent teacher conferences, records days and other such teacher work activities~~ **provide that the last day of the school year shall be May 31st annually.** School attendance and average daily membership records shall be kept for those days during which students and teachers are present. ~~The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services shall have the right to reduce or waive the minimum number of days required upon application from any school committee or board of directors in the State, such application to be supported in writing with a statement of the reasons for such request~~ Any administrative unit failing to maintain its schools as provided in

this section shall be debarred from drawing its state school moneys until it shall have made suitable provisions for so maintaining them thereafter.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 1011, first sentence, as amended by PL 1967, c. 425, § 19, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

In order to more thoroughly prepare the youth of the State for the duties and obligations of citizenship and to provide for their future well-being and comfort, the school committees or school directors of the several administrative units of the State may make provisions for the organization and development of adequate programs of health, safety and physical education and may offer these courses to any pupils in the public elementary and secondary schools of the State in accordance with a course of study and plans of lessons and instruction prepared by the commissioner. The commissioner shall prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out in successful manner the program of health, safety and physical education, and he may require such reports from superintendents as he may deem necessary.

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA § 1281, sub-§ 1, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 20 MRSA § 1281, sub-§ 2, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 510, § 22 is repealed.

Sec. 5. 20 MRSA § 1281, sub-§ 3, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 24, § 7 is repealed.

Sec. 6. 20 MRSA § 1282, first sentence, is amended to read:

A junior high school shall include such schools as maintain a diversified program of studies approved by the commissioner, for such grades or years as he shall prescribe, throughout a school year ~~of at least 36 weeks~~.

Sec. 7. 20 MRSA § 1453, first sentence, is amended to read:

Elementary school privileges may be provided by the commissioner by establishing and maintaining in the unorganized territory such elementary schools, ~~the minimum school year of which shall be 36 weeks~~ as may seem advisable and by sending such children to elementary schools anywhere within the State as tuition pupils as he may deem expedient.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purposes of this bill are to:

- (1) Repeal requirements establishing a minimum school year;
- (2) Repeal the provision which requires physical education; and
- (3) Require that May 31st should be the last day of the school year.