

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 794

H. P. 640

House of Representatives, February 27, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT Giving Local School Committees more Control with Respect to the  
Setting of School Calendars.**

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

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

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~~ **160** shall be actual school days and no more than ~~5~~ **20** may be devoted to in-service education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher conferences, records days and other such teacher work activities.

**Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 1281, sub-§ 3, first sentence**, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 24, § 7, is further amended to read:

It has a minimum school year of 180 school days, of which not less than ~~175~~ **160** shall be actual school days and not more than ~~5~~ **20** may be devoted to in-service education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher conferences, records days and other such teacher work activities.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would transfer control over 15 school days from the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services to local school committees. This bill would give local school committees the power to decide how to use 20 school days, an increase from 5, without loss of state school moneys. For example, the decision to use a school day for curriculum coordination and development, instead of as a student day, would be a decision made by a local school committee and not the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services.

Increasing the power of local school committees over their school will help local school committees meet the ever increasing demands of parents and other citizens.