

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 794**

H. P. 680

House of Representatives, February 11, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Cunningham of New Gloucester.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

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**AN ACT to Establish a Maine Energy Efficient School Year Schedule.**

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

**Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 107 is enacted to read:**

**§ 107. School year**

**Beginning with the 1982-83 school year, the commissioner shall require that all public schools within the State close for at least one calendar month each year between the months of November and March to conserve energy. This closing shall not reduce in any manner the number of days on which a school is required, by law or regulation, to remain open during any academic year.**

**Sec. 2. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide election; effective date.** This Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following passage of this Act. The city alderman, town selectmen and plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

“Shall public schools in Maine be required to close for one month of vacation during the winter to help conserve energy?”

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act shall become effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide that all public schools be closed at least one month during the winter to help conserve energy used in the schools. This bill will be submitted to the voters at a referendum to be held in 1981 and, if approved, will be implemented in the 1982-83 school year.