

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 655

8 H.P. 454

House of Representatives, February 21, 1985

9 Submitted by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services
10 pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative O'Gara of Westbrook.

12 Cosponsored by Representative Bost of Orono, Senator Gauvreau of
Androscoggin and Representative Dexter of Kingfield.

13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 AN ACT to Amend the School Volunteer Program.
19

20 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
21 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
22 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

23 Whereas, the tremendous growth in the last 5
24 years of volunteers in schools has created an immedi-
25 ate need for the Department of Educational and Cul-
26 tural Services to be in a position to advise and as-
27 sist school administrative units in the establishment
28 and operation of their school volunteer programs; and

29 Whereas, this program is an overwhelming success,
30 but is scheduled to be abolished before the end of
31 this legislative session; and

32 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
33 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
34 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
35 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-

1 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
2 therefore,

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

5 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §901, last ¶, as enacted by PL
6 1983, c. 528, §1, is repealed.

7 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §902, as enacted by PL 1983,
8 c. 528, §1, is amended to read:

9 §902. Department staff to carry out program

10 The department shall ~~contract~~ employ appropriate
11 staff to carry out the purposes of this chapter, as
12 set forth in section 901, and shall seek the advice
13 of the Maine School Volunteer Alliance in establish-
14 ing the criteria to be met.

15 Sec. 3. **Effective date.** This section shall be-
16 come effective July 1, 1985.

17 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency
18 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect
19 when approved.

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

21 In 1979, Maine had 6 school volunteer programs.
22 Through the efforts of the Maine School Volunteer Al-
23 liance, that number had increased to 108 by June
24 1983. In June 1984, 361 schools reported the use of
25 volunteers, 242 in organized school volunteer pro-
26 grams. The number of volunteers increased from 5,503
27 in 1983 to 11,622 in 1984, and the number of hours
28 donated increased from 161,251 in 1983 to 238,827 in
29 1984. In the same period, the number of schools with
30 coordinators had grown from 47 to 80.

31 Since February 1984, when the position of coordi-
32 nator of school volunteer programs was filled, the
33 coordinator has worked directly with 91 schools and
34 organized training for more than 400 people. Evalua-
35 tions of a recent state conference on school

1 volunteerism elicited 97 areas where schools desire
2 more information and training. A survey received
3 from local school administrative units in September
4 1984, revealed that 313 schools of 452 responding
5 wanted more information on techniques for using
6 volunteers in specific instructional and support sit-
7 uations and 323 wanted training in volunteer program
8 organization and management. The 11 components of
9 program organization listed on the survey elicited
10 1,460 requests for information.

11 School volunteer programs pass through 4 stages
12 of development, from no volunteer utilization at all,
13 to comprehensive and varied involvement of all seg-
14 ments to the community in education. Each stage re-
15 quires unique training and support. The tremendous
16 growth of new volunteer programs, combined with the
17 relative scarcity of expertise in the field, requires
18 training a larger group of educators and volunteers
19 than previously envisioned and necessitates looking
20 outside of normal channels in order to locate compe-
21 tent trainers.

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