

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 989

7 H.P. 694

House of Representatives, March 12, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Bost of Orono.

11 Cosponsored by Representative O'Gara of Westbrook, Representative  
Carroll of Gray and Representative Brown of Gorham.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Require that the Educational School  
18 Year Consist of 175 Consecutive Days.  
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1, as enacted by  
23 PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

24 1. Number. A school administrative unit shall  
25 make provision for the maintenance of all of its  
26 schools for at least 180 days a year. At least 175  
27 days shall be used for instruction. In meeting the  
28 requirement of a 180-day school year, no more than 5  
29 days may be used for in-service education of teach-  
30 ers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher confer-  
31 ences, records' days and similar activities. With the  
32 exception of not more than 2 parent-teacher confer-  
33 ence days, these noninstructional days may not inter-  
34 rupt the 175-day instructional period.

1 A. The commissioner may reduce or waive the min-  
2 imum number of days required on application from  
3 a school board. The application must be sup-  
4 ported in writing with a statement of the reasons  
5 for the request.

6 B. Notwithstanding any other section of the  
7 statutes, school committees, with the approval of  
8 the commissioner, may adopt or amend rules neces-  
9 sary to implement an extended school year at the  
10 local level. The commissioner may make appropri-  
11 ate adjustments, not to exceed the allowable sub-  
12 sidy, to insure fair and equitable treatment in  
13 the distribution of state aid.

14 Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take ef-  
15 fect July 1, 1986.

16 STATEMENT OF FACT

17 The school year for students is now interrupted  
18 by up to 10 half days for teacher workshops and cur-  
19 riculum planning. This bill requires school systems  
20 to hold workshops and carry out planning before or  
21 after the start of the student school year, during  
22 Christmas, spring or winter breaks, evenings or  
23 weekends. This will not interfere with the vacation  
24 period traditionally granted for the potato harvest.

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