

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 755

H.P. 557 House of Representatives, March 13, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and  
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative PINES of Limestone.  
Cosponsored by Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Amend the Education Laws to Expand  
2 the School Year to 185 Days.  
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1, as amended by  
7 PL 1985, c. 624, is further amended to read:

8 1. Number. A school administrative unit shall  
9 make provision for the maintenance of all of its  
10 schools for at least ~~100~~ 185 days a year. At least  
11 ~~175~~ 180 days shall be used for instruction. In meet-  
12 ing the requirement of a ~~100-day~~ 185-day school year,  
13 no more than 5 days may be used for in-service educa-  
14 tion of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-  
15 teacher conferences, records' days and similar activ-  
16 ities.

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 laws, school committees, with the ap-  
8 proval of the commissioner, may adopt or amend  
9 rules necessary to implement an extended school  
10 year at the local level. The commissioner may  
11 make appropriate adjustments, not to exceed the  
12 allowable subsidy, to insure fair and equitable  
13 treatment in the distribution of state aid.

14 C. Notwithstanding this subsection, the commis-  
15 sioner shall promulgate a rule to provide that  
16 local school units may allow secondary school  
17 students to graduate up to 5 school days prior to  
18 the regular end of the school year.

19 **Sec. 2. Application.** This Act does not apply to  
20 any school administrative unit until the expiration  
21 of any contract in effect on the effective date of  
22 this Act.

23 STATEMENT OF FACT

24 Many states are expanding their student year be-  
25 yond the traditional 180 days. This bill does so in  
26 this State in order to improve educational opportuni-  
27 ties and classroom instruction.

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