# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## (NEW DRAFT OF H.P. 1455, L.D. 1966) (NEW TITLE) SECOND REGULAR SESSION

### ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

# Legislative Document

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NO. 2475

H.P. 1809 House of Representatives, March 8, 1988
Reported by Representative HANDY from the Committee on
Education and printed under Joint Rule 2.
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill sponsored by Representative BOST of Orono. Cosponsored by Senator ESTES of York, Representatives MATTHEWS of Caribou and GOULD of Greenville.

#### STATE OF MAINE

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

| L | AN ACT to Clarify the Access of the               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | Commissioner of Educational and Cultural          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Services to Employee Records for Certification    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | of Educational Personnel.                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | •   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| - | Do it enacted by the Decele of the Ctate of Maine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6101, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted
by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5, 8, is amended to read:

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|                            | ·   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5      | B. Except as provided in paragraph A, information in any form relating to an employee or applicant for employment, or to the employee's immediate family, shall be kept confidential if it relates to the following:  |
| 6<br>7<br>8                | (1) All information, working papers and<br>examinations used in the examination or<br>evaluation of all applicants for employment;  |
| 9<br>10<br>11<br>12        | (2) Medical information of any kind,<br>including information pertaining to diagnosis<br>or treatment of mental or emotional<br>disorders;  |
| 13<br>14<br>15<br>16<br>17 | (3) Performance evaluations, personal references and other reports and evaluations reflecting on the quality or adequacy of the employee's work or general character compiled and maintained for employment purposes; |
| 18                         | (4) Credit information;   |
| 19<br>20<br>21<br>22       | (5) Except as provided by subsection 1, the<br>personal history, general character or<br>conduct of the employee or any member of the<br>employee's immediate family;   |
| 23<br>24<br>25<br>26       | (6) Complaints, charges of misconduct,<br>replies thereto and memoranda and other<br>materials pertaining to disciplinary<br>action; and  |
| 27                         | (7) Social security number -; and   |
| 28<br>29<br>30             | (8) The teacher action plan and support system documents and reports maintained for certification purposes.   |

31 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6101, sub-§3, as amended by 32 PL 1985, c. 506, Pt. A, §37, is further amended to 33 read:

3. <u>Commissioner's review.</u> The commissioner shall

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| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6       | have access to any of the records or documents designated as confidential in this section for carrying out the commissioner's duties pursuant to sections 13001 to 13003 and chapter 502 section 13020. Copies of any such records or documents shall simultaneously be provided to the employee.                           |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 7<br>8<br>9<br>10<br>11<br>12    | The commissioner shall also have access to support system documents for carrying out the commissioner's certification and support system approval duties pursuant to chapter 502 and to other confidential employee records for carrying out the commissioner's school approval duties pursuant to chapter 206.             |
| 13<br>14                         | <pre>Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6102, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§ 5, 8, is amended to read:</pre>   |
| 15                               | §6102. Employee review  |
| 16<br>17                         | The following provisions apply to employee review of records.   |
| 18<br>19<br>20<br>21<br>22<br>23 | 1. Right to review. An employee or former employee of a school administrative unit, or the employee's representative, is entitled to review the employee's personnel file on written request to the superintendent if the superintendent of schools has a personnel file for the employee. following documents and reports: |
| 25<br>26<br>27<br>28             | A. The employee's teacher action plan and other support system documents and reports maintained for certification purposes upon written request to the custodian designated to maintain those records;  |
| 29<br>30<br>31<br>32             | B. The employee's personnel file on written request to the superintendent if the superintendent of schools has a personnel file for the employee; and   |
| 33<br>34<br>35<br>36             | C. Any confidential records or documents provided to the commissioner pursuant to section 6101, subsection 3, if the records or documents were not simultaneously provided to the employee.   |

| 1 | 2.       | Time | e and | d place | ₽. R   | eview  | of sup | port | system |
|---|----------|------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|------|--------|
|   | documen  |      |       |         |        |        |        |      | where  |
| 3 | the file | e is | kept  | during  | normal | school | hours. |      |        |

- 4 3. Contents. For purposes of this section, a personnel file" includes, but is not limited to:
- A. Formal or informal employee work evaluation compiled and maintained for employment purposes; and
- 9 B. Reports relating to the employee's character, credit, work habits, compensation and benefits.

## 11 STATEMENT OF FACT

12 The original bill repealed the provision of providing for access by the Commissioner Educational and Cultural Services for certifications 13 14 certification 15 purposes to otherwise confidential school employee records. The new draft clarifies that those documents are confidential, but provides for access by the 16 17 18 commissioner for purposes strictly limited to his certification and school approval responsibilities. 19 The new draft also clarifies an employee's right of 20 access to documents in his file. 21

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