

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 17

H.P. 22

House of Representatives, January 25, 1989

Reported by Representative HANDY for the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and Education pursuant to Resolve 1987, chapter 110.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Education suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Expand and Improve the School Year.



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

3 **20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1985, c. 624, is**
5 further amended to read:

7 1. Number. A school administrative unit shall make
9 provision for the maintenance of all of its schools for at least
11 180 183 days a year. At least 175 days shall be used for
13 instruction. In meeting the requirement of a 180-day 183-day
15 school year, no more than 5 days may be used for in-service
17 education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher
conferences, records' days and similar activities between the
first and last instructional day of the school year. An
additional 3 to 5 days shall be provided prior to the first
instructional day of the school year to provide school-wide
planning and professional staff development.

19 A. The commissioner may reduce or waive the minimum number
21 of days required on application from a school board. The
application must be supported in writing with a statement of
the reasons for the request.

23 B. Notwithstanding any other section of the statutes,
25 school committees, with the approval of the commissioner,
may adopt or amend rules necessary to implement an extended
27 school year at the local level. The commissioner may make
appropriate adjustments, not to exceed the allowable
29 subsidy, to insure fair and equitable treatment in the
distribution of state aid.

31 C. Notwithstanding this subsection, the commissioner shall
33 promulgate a rule to provide that local school units may
allow secondary school students to graduate up to 5 school
35 days prior to the regular end of the school year.

37

39 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

41 This bill is part of the legislative recommendations of the
43 Special Commission to Study Early Childhood Development and
Education authorized by Resolve 1987, chapter 110.

45 This bill expands the overall minimum length of the school
47 year from 180 to at least 183 days; maintains the current 175
instructional days and 5 in-service days during the school year;
and requires that an additional 3 to 5 days be provided before
49 the beginning of the school year for school-wide planning and
professional staff development activities.