

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 542

S.P. 226

In Senate, March 3, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DUTREMBLE of York.

Cosponsored by Senator ESTES of York, Senator BOST of Penobscot and Representative CROWLEY of Stockton Springs.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act Concerning School Attendance Policies.



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

20-A MRSA §4704, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. C, §§5 and 7, is repealed and the following is enacted in its place:

§4704. Courses prescribed by the commissioner; minimum attendance

1. Courses; performance. The commissioner shall prescribe by rule the basic courses of study for the elementary and secondary schools, consistent with the requirements of this chapter, and may include minimum performance standards.

2. Minimum attendance. Each school administrative unit shall establish a policy, subject to approval by the commissioner, concerning the minimum number of days a student must be present to pass a course. The commissioner shall prescribe by rule guidelines for minimum attendance requirements.

STATEMENT OF FACT

In past years, the Legislature has stressed the quality of education, but no mention has been made of how many days a student must attend a class to pass the class. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that there are minimum requirements for class attendance. A student will not be able to pass a particular course without having met the attendance requirements for that course. Each school administrative unit will establish its own course attendance policy, which must be approved by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services. The commissioner will adopt guidelines for the school administrative units to follow in establishing the policies.