

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 445, L.D. 1189, Bill, "An Act Relating to Restructuring the Public Schools"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "S7." by striking out all of subsection 1 and inserting in its place the following:

1. School restructuring. For the purposes of this section, the term "school restructuring" means the process by which schools and communities make significant changes in the existing school structure, including the policies, roles, relationships and schedules that influence teaching and learning in the school. School restructuring recognizes the critical educational role of technology and integrates technology and technological systems in the classroom, in school governance and in school record keeping. School restructuring is based on:

A. The development of comprehensive educational goals establishing community expectations for what all students should know, the skills they should possess, the attitude toward work and learning they should hold upon completing school and the role of the school in the community;

B. A formal appraisal of the basic structures that govern operation of the school; and

C. A commitment to revise the basic school structure to achieve the comprehensive educational goals.

School restructuring, which is most effectively carried out at the local level, depends on community and educator involvement and approval and student participation. School restructuring includes consideration of changing roles for parents, students, teachers, administrators, support staff, postsecondary education institutions and officials, and various segments of the community. It may include a significantly broadened role for schools.

2 School restructuring may include schools and school
4 administrative units combining efforts to cooperatively pursue
restructuring activities. When that occurs, one or more schools
6 or units may be designated as demonstration sites.'

8 Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated
"§7." in subsection 3 in paragraph A in the last 2 lines (page 2,
10 lines 32 and 33 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "the
pursuit of the program's plan;" and inserting in its place the
12 following: 'the program in its pursuit of a plan to meet the
educational needs of its students and the staffing needs of
14 restructuring schools;'

16 Further amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 18 in the
last 2 lines (page 3, lines 19 and 20 in L.D.) by striking out
18 the following: "which that can eliminate their dependency on
public assistance; and" and inserting in its place the
20 following: 'which--can--eliminate--their--dependency--on--public
assistanee; and'

22 Further amend the bill in section 5 in the 2nd line (page 3,
line 33 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "shall report in
24 writing to" and inserting in its place the following: 'shall
coordinate the preparation of a written report with information
26 from the public and private organizations and entities involved
in school restructuring in the State to'

28 Further amend the bill in section 5 by striking out all of
30 the last 4 lines (page 3, lines 40 to 43 in L.D.) and inserting
in their place the following: 'requested and granted and a
32 listing of the specific rules for which waivers were requested.
The report must also include an assessment of the effectiveness
34 of school restructuring, including recommendations on how
restructuring may become more effective, how replication of
36 successful efforts may be encouraged and how dissemination of
information on school restructuring may be enhanced.'

38 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
40 statement of fact the following:

42 **FISCAL NOTE**

44 This bill calls for the Department of Education to encourage
school administrative units to pursue the process of
46 restructuring schools to meet the learning needs and improve the
academic performance of students. It allows the Commissioner of
48 Education and the State Board of Education to waive certain rules
when necessary to achieve restructuring and requires the
50 Department of Education to coordinate the preparation of a report

2 to the Legislature on restructuring efforts. The costs
associated with processing waiver requests and helping to prepare
4 the report will be absorbed utilizing existing resources of the
Department of Education and the State Board of Education.'

6
8 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

10 The original bill defined the term "school restructuring,"
encouraged the Commissioner of Education and the University of
12 Maine System to cooperate in providing technical assistance to
schools and communities pursuing significant changes in the
14 structure of their schools, established waivers for schools and
teacher education programs to enhance restructuring and required
16 the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to
study school restructuring efforts and to report to the Joint
18 Standing Committee on Education.

20 This amendment makes several changes to clarify the original
bill. The amendment revises the definition of school
22 restructuring to stress the importance of active teaching and
involved learning processes in the restructuring process, to
24 promote more community involvement in establishing goals for
restructuring schools, to clearly recognize the need for
26 expanding the role of schools in the community and to take into
account the importance of technology in the restructuring
28 effort. The amendment makes several minor revisions in the
assessment and reporting requirements of the Department of
30 Education and makes other technical changes in the bill.

Reported by Senator McCormick for the Committee on Education.
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