

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

---

Legislative Document

No. 879

---

H.P. 656

House of Representatives, March 21, 1995

---

### **An Act Concerning a Moment of Silence in Maine Public Schools.**

---

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative POULIOT of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BAILEY of Township 27, BENEDIKT of Brunswick, BIRNEY of Paris, BOUFFARD of Lewiston, BUCK of Yarmouth, CHIZMAR of Lisbon, CLARK of Millinocket, CLOUTIER of South Portland, CLUKEY of Houlton, CROSS of Dover-Foxcroft, DESMOND of Mapleton, DEXTER of Kingfield, DiPIETRO of South Portland, DONNELLY of Presque Isle, DRISCOLL of Calais, DUNN of Gray, GOULD of Greenville, GREENLAW of Standish, GUERRETTE of Pittston, HATCH of Skowhegan, HEINO of Boothbay, HICHBORN of LaGrange, JACQUES of Waterville, JONES of Pittsfield, JOY of Crystal, KEANE of Old Town, KERR of Old Orchard Beach, KNEELAND of Easton, LAYTON of Cherryfield, LEMKE of Westbrook, LEMONT of Kittery, LIBBY of Kennebunk, LIBBY of Buxton, LINDAHL of Northport, LOOK of Jonesboro, LOVETT of Scarborough, LUMBRA of Bangor, MARSHALL of Eliot, MORRISON of Bangor, MURPHY of Berwick, NADEAU of Saco, NICKERSON of Turner, PLOWMAN of Hampden, REED of Falmouth, REED of Dexter, RICKER of Lewiston, ROBICHAUD of Caribou, ROSEBUSH of East Millinocket, SAMSON of Jay, SIMONEAU of Thomaston, SIROIS of Caribou, SPEAR of Nobleboro, STEDMAN of Hartland, STROUT of Corinth, TRUE of Fryeburg, TRUMAN of Biddeford, TUTTLE of Sanford, UNDERWOOD of Oxford, VIGUE of Winslow, WATERHOUSE of Bridgton, WHEELER of Bridgewater, WINGLASS of Auburn, WINN of Glenburn, WINSOR of Norway, YACKOBITZ of Hermon, Senators: BENOIT of Franklin, BERUBE of Androscoggin, CAREY of Kennebec, CIANCHETTE of Somerset, HANLEY of Oxford, LORD of York, MICHAUD of Penobscot, PARADIS of Aroostook, STEVENS of Androscoggin.

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

2

4

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4805, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

6

8

10

12

14

**2. Moment of silence.** The school board of a school administrative unit ~~may~~ shall require, at the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades in all public schools in their unit, that the teacher in charge of the room in which each class is held shall announce that a ~~period~~ moment of silence ~~shall~~ must be observed for reflection or meditation and, during that ~~period~~ moment, silence ~~shall~~ must be maintained and no activities engaged in.

16

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

18

20

Current law permits school boards to require a period of silence in the public schools. This bill directs school boards to require this special observance and changes the term from "period of silence" to "moment of silence."