

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1996

Legislative Document

No. 1642

S.P. 634

In Senate, January 8, 1996

An Act to Extend Waivers of Certain Provisions of the Education Laws.

Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SMALL of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

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

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Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5, ¶B, as amended by PL 1991, c. 622, Pt. X, §2, is further amended to read:

B. Staffing, including student-teacher ratios, except that the approval rules in effect for the school years beginning in the fall of 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 must permit maximum student-teacher ratios of 25:1 school-wide for kindergarten to grade 8 and maximum student-teacher ratios of 30:1 school-wide for grades 9 to 12;

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5, ¶H, as amended by PL 1991, c. 9, Pt. II, §2, is further amended to read:

H. Student personnel services, including guidance and counseling and, notwithstanding any rules adopted by the department, comprehensive guidance plans to be approved by the commissioner for implementation in the 1995-96 2000-01 school year;

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5-A, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 622, Pt. X, §3, is amended to read:

5-A. Application. The provisions of subsection 5, paragraph H do not apply to the school years beginning in the fall of 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4504, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1993, c. 435, §4 and affected by §14, is further amended to read:

2. Comprehensive reviews. The commissioner shall, on a one-year to 5-year cycle, make a comprehensive review of each public school to determine whether the school is in compliance with basic school approval standards. These reviews must, insofar as is practicable, be coordinated with reviews of other schools in the school unit, accreditation visits, special education reviews, federal program reviews and other required reviews or inspections, so as to reduce administrative burdens on school personnel. During the school years beginning in the fall of 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999, the comprehensive reviews required by this subsection may include site visits.

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §4217, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 622, Pt. X, §5, is amended to read:

2 **§4517. Waiver of requirements**

4 The provisions of this subchapter do not apply to the school
6 years beginning in the fall of 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and, 1995,
1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.

8 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §8104, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1991, c.
10 622, Pt. X, §6, is further amended to read:

12 **1. Establishment.** Each school administrative unit must,
14 commencing with the 1987-88 school year, establish a plan for
16 phasing in gifted and talented educational programs by 1995-96
18 2000-01. No A school administrative unit or part of a school
administrative unit is not required to comply with the provisions
of its plan during the school years beginning in the fall of
1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.

20 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

22 The current waiver, providing relief due to budgetary
24 hardship to school districts in the areas of student-teacher
26 ratios, school approval, school accreditation, implementation of
28 gifted and talented and guidance and counseling programs, expires
30 at the beginning of the school year in the fall of 1996.
32 Budgetary conditions have not necessarily improved and school
districts may require continued relief. Additionally, in the
next 2 years, with the development of the Learning Results and
Standards, these laws may be reviewed, amended or replaced.
Therefore, it is recommended that the provisions for compliance
and implementation be extended.