

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 721

H.P. 530

House of Representatives, February 4, 1997

An Act to Reduce School Truancy.

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 WATSON of Farmingdale.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of York and
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, BULL of Freeport, McELROY of Unity, McKEE of
Wayne, O'NEIL of Saco, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, WHEELER of Eliot, Senator: SMALL of
Sagadahoc.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5001-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 806, §49, is amended to read:

1. Requirement. Persons 7 years of age or older and under 17 18 years shall attend a public day school during the time it is in regular session.

Sec. 2. Committee to Study Truancy. The Committee to Study Truancy, referred to in this section as the "study committee," is established to examine the law dealing with habitual truancy.

1. Membership. The study committee consists of 5 members: 2 members suggested by the Maine Education Association; the Commissioner of Education or a designee; one Legislator from the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs; and the Attorney General or a designee.

2. Convening; chair. When all the members have been appointed, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall convene the first meeting. The members shall select a chair from among the membership.

3. Compensation. Members are not entitled to compensation.

4. Report. The study committee shall issue a report and any implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 1, 1998.

If the committee requires an extension, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the age for compulsory attendance at school from under 17 years to under 18 years. The bill also establishes a study committee to study habitual truancy.