

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 339

S.P. 113

In Senate, January 30, 2001

An Act to Address Violence in Schools.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative RICHARD of Madison and
Senators: ABROMSON of Cumberland, MARTIN of Aroostook, MILLS of Somerset,
SAWYER of Penobscot, Representatives: LEDWIN of Holden, STEDMAN of Hartland,
WESTON of Montville.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §§6804 and 6806**, as enacted by PL 1981, c.
693, §§5 and 8, are amended to read:

6 **§6804. Disturbing schools**

8 A person who enters the property of a public or private
10 school ~~building~~ or another place of instruction during or out of
school hours, while the teacher or student is present, and
12 willfully interrupts or disturbs the teacher or student by loud
speaking, rude or indecent behavior, signs or gestures, or
engages in hostile, aggressive or threatening behavior toward a
14 student, teacher, administrator or other staff member, or
willfully interrupts a school by prowling about the building,
16 making noises, throwing missiles at the schoolhouse or disturbing
the school, ~~shall--commit~~ commits a civil offense and shall
18 forfeit not less than \$2 \$200 nor more than \$20 \$500.

20 **§6806. Defacing schoolhouses; outbuildings**

22 A person who defaces, damages or destroys the walls,
benches, seats, blackboards or other parts of a schoolhouse or
24 school outbuildings, ~~by--obscene--pictures,--language,--marks--or~~
~~descriptions,~~ commits a civil offense and shall pay a ~~fine of not~~
26 ~~more than \$10~~ double the damages.

28 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6807**, as amended by PL 1983, c. 806, §62,
is further amended to read:

30 **§6807. Liability for injury to books or appliances**

32 If a public school student loses, destroys or unnecessarily
34 injures a schoolbook or appliance furnished to the student at the
expense of the school administrative unit, the student's parent
36 shall must be notified. If the loss or damage is not made good
to the satisfaction of the school board within a ~~reasonable time~~
38 45 working days, ~~they~~ the board shall report the case to the
assessors of the municipality in which the student resides. The
40 municipal assessors shall include in the next municipal tax of
the delinquent parent the value replacement costs of the book or
42 appliance, to be assessed and collected as other municipal taxes,
and the money collected must go to the municipality.

44
46 **SUMMARY**

48 This bill includes "engages in hostile, aggressive or
threatening behavior toward a student, teacher, administrator or
50 other staff member" in the crime of disturbing schools. The bill

2 also indicates that if a person damages or destroys a school
house or building the person commits a civil offense and damages
4 are doubled. The bill also replaces "reasonable time" with 45
working days for the time that a parent has to make good when a
6 student loses or damages school property. After that time the
municipality collects the replacement costs, and the money
collected goes to the municipality.

8
10 This bill strengthens the recourse to the authority who must
deal with those who disrupt and vandalize the schools in our
12 State.