

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 641

H.P. 471

House of Representatives, February 11, 2003

**An Act To Implement a Recommendation of the Commission on
Fatherhood Issues Related to Parental Notice of School Activities
and Programs**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CUMMINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland and
Representatives: BLISS of South Portland, SAMPSON of Auburn, SUSLOVIC of Portland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6001-A**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 415,
5 §4, is amended to read:

6 **§6001-A. Parental access to information on school activities**

7
8 **1. Parental notification.** Upon written request by a
9 parent, a school administrative unit may provide written
10 notification of all school activities and programs for which
11 parental participation, involvement, notification or awareness is
12 in the best interest of the student. A noncustodial parent may
13 ~~have access to information on school activities and programs upon~~
14 ~~written request and with the mutual agreement of the custodial~~
15 ~~parent and the school administrative unit~~ must be provided with
16 written notification of all school activities and programs after
17 a copy of a court order awarding parental rights and
18 responsibilities that includes a statement that the noncustodial
19 parent must have access to records and information pertaining to
20 the noncustodial parent's minor child's school records and other
21 information on school activities, in accordance with Title 19-A,
22 section 1653, subsection 2, paragraph D, subparagraph (4), has
23 been submitted to and approved by the superintendent or the
24 superintendent's designee in the school administrative unit where
25 the noncustodial parent's minor child is enrolled.

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27 **2. Exemption.** This section does not apply to a parent
28 denied parental rights and responsibilities in a court order.

29
30 **3. Exception.** Upon written request by a custodial parent
31 stating the reasons why written notification of all school
32 activities and programs is not in the best interests of the
33 child, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee in the
34 school administrative unit where the child is enrolled may deny
35 written notification of all school activities and programs to a
36 noncustodial parent who has submitted a request for notification
37 under this section.

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39
40 **SUMMARY**

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42 Current law provides that, upon written request and with the
43 agreement of both the custodial parent and the school
44 administrative unit, a school may provide written notification of
45 all school activities and programs for which parental
46 participation, involvement, notification or awareness is in the
47 best interest of the student. This bill proposes to implement
48 one of the recommendations of the Commission on Fatherhood Issues
related to the notification provided to a noncustodial parent

2 regarding that parent's child's school activities and programs.
3 Under this bill, a school administrative unit must provide a
4 noncustodial parent with written notification of the child's
5 school activities and programs when the noncustodial parent
6 submits a copy of a court order awarding parental rights and
7 responsibilities that includes a statement that the noncustodial
8 parent must have access to records and information pertaining to
9 the minor child's school records and other information on school
10 activities.

11 The bill also includes an exception provision to providing
12 notification to a noncustodial parent. Upon the written request
13 of a custodial parent that states the reasons why written
14 notification of school activities and programs is not in the best
15 interests of the child, the superintendent or the
16 superintendent's designee in the school administrative unit where
17 the child is enrolled may deny providing notification to the
18 noncustodial parent who has submitted a request for that
19 notification.
20