

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 666

H.P. 486

House of Representatives, February 8, 2005

An Act To Require Approval of Voters before Closing a School

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLCENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative JOY of Crystal.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ANNIS of Dover-Foxcroft, CLARK of Millinocket,
RICHARDSON of Carmel, SAVIELLO of Wilton, THOMAS of Ripley, THOMPSON of
China, VAUGHAN of Durham.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §11** is enacted to read:

6 **§11. Closing schools**

8 After January 1, 2006, the commissioner may not close a
10 public school except in accordance with procedures and standards
12 established by the department by rule. The rules must provide
14 for a public hearing in the area served by a school prior to the
date of the proposed closure of the school. Voters must approve
by a 2/3 vote the closure of the school at the public hearing.
Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive
rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

16 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to adopt
20 major substantive rules to establish standards and practices to
follow when proposing to close a public school.