

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 679

S.P. 215

In Senate, February 8, 2005

**An Act To Encourage Effective Education of Special Needs Students
in Maine's Private Schools**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative DAVIS of Falmouth and
Senators: ANDREWS of York, DOW of Lincoln, STRIMLING of Cumberland,
Representatives: CEBRA of Naples, ROBINSON of Raymond, STEDMAN of Hartland.

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

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Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §7501, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

§7501. Private schools

The Except as otherwise provided in this section, the commissioner may require that special education programs in an approved private school or agency receiving state funds comply with rules for the conduct of programs within public schools. The commissioner may not require an approved private school to comply with such rules if the commissioner finds that the private school has, and for at least the immediately preceding 5 years has had, an effective program for and record of educating and helping the exceptional students it enrolls, and if the commissioner finds that the private school is likely to continue to be effective in educating exceptional students.

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Commissioner of Education to waive the requirement that private schools comply with rules for the conduct of special education programs within public schools if the commissioner finds that the private school has, and has had for at least 5 years, an effective program helping exceptional students and if the commissioner finds the program is likely to continue to be effective.