

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 797

S.P. 264

In Senate, February 15, 2005

### **An Act Authorizing the State Board of Education To Mediate School Attendance Disputes**

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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 NUTTING of Androscoggin.  
Cosponsored by Representative BRYANT-DESCHENES of Turner and  
Representative: LANSLEY of Sabattus.

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §405, sub-§3, ¶U**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 395, Pt. J, §4 and amended by PL 2003, c. 545, §5, is further amended to read:

U. Review the organization of school administrative units statewide to identify current cooperative agreements between school administrative units. Cooperative agreements may include, but are not limited to: purchasing or contract agreements; administrative functions; shared staff and staff training; and technology initiatives. Based on the review, and in consultation with the department, the state board may require that school administrative units develop and carry out a plan for a cooperative agreement with one or more other school administrative units. "Cooperative agreement" may include agreements between school administrative units and career and technical education regions and career and technical education centers; and

**Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §405, sub-§3, ¶V**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 395, Pt. J, §4, is amended to read:

V. Study school consolidation statewide, develop a school consolidation plan that includes criteria for evaluating opportunities for consolidation and, if desirable, develop a time line for implementation; and

**Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §405, sub-§3, ¶W** is enacted to read:

W. Mediate a dispute between school administrative units pursuant to section 5203, subsection 2 and section 5204, subsection 2 when a disagreement arises over a student's attending school in a school administrative unit other than the one in which the student resides. This situation applies only when the school that the student wishes to attend is closer to the student's residence than the school in the school administrative unit in which the student resides.

**SUMMARY**

This bill authorizes the State Board of Education to mediate a dispute between school administrative units over an attendance disagreement when a student wishes to attend a school that is close geographically but outside the school administrative unit in which the student lives.