

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 1024

H.P. 709

House of Representatives, March 1, 2005

### An Act To Make Safer Schools

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAVIS of Falmouth.  
Cosponsored by Representative: NORTON of Bangor.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6554** is enacted to read:

6 **§6554. Threatening or violent behavior**

8 A student in a public school who engages in threatening or  
10 violent behavior against another student or a staff member or  
12 other school personnel must be suspended for a period of up to  
14 one year. As used in this section, "threatening or violent  
behavior" means intentionally or knowingly placing another person  
in fear of imminent bodily injury or intentionally, knowingly or  
recklessly causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact to  
another person.

16 The penalties imposed pursuant to this section are in  
18 addition to any other civil or criminal penalty to which a  
student may be subject.

20 A school board shall adopt a written policy that prohibits  
22 threatening or violent behavior by students and shall clearly set  
24 forth the policy and penalties adopted and distribute copies of  
the policy and penalties to the parents or guardians of students  
enrolled in the school administrative unit.

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill allows a school board to suspend a student for up  
30 to one year if the student engages in threatening or violent  
32 behavior against another student or a staff member or other  
34 school personnel. Each public school board is required to  
establish a written policy and penalties and to provide a copy of  
the policy and penalties to all students.