## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006**

Legislative Document

No. 1821

H.P. 1261

House of Representatives, January 3, 2006

An Act To Authorize Flexibility in School Attendance Requirements in Emergencies

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 28, 2005. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millient M. Macfarland MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLS of Farmington. Cosponsored by Representative: NORTON of Bangor.

	Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts of the Legislature do not
2	become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
	as emergencies; and
4	Whomas the manut important in all mains has head a bound
6	Whereas, the recent increase in oil prices has had a harsh effect on the budgets of schools as the price of qasoline and
U	heating fuel has increased significantly; and
8	
	Whereas, this legislation would allow schools to alter the
10	number of days that they are required to be in session, thus
	reducing fuel costs; and
12	VV.1
	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
14	create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
16	Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
10	safety; now, therefore,
18	bareej, now, emerciale,
	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
20	·
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22 24 26 28	Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1, ¶F is enacted to read:  F. The commissioner may reduce the minimum number of instructional days required pursuant to this subsection during times of emergency, as declared by the Governor, including, but not limited to, a severe increase in the price of or shortage of gasoline and heating fuel. The commissioner may authorize a school board to extend the length of the instructional day so that it approximately offsets the reduction in the total number of instructional days pursuant to this paragraph.
22 24 26 28 30	Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1, ¶F is enacted to read:  F. The commissioner may reduce the minimum number of instructional days required pursuant to this subsection during times of emergency, as declared by the Governor, including, but not limited to, a severe increase in the price of or shortage of gasoline and heating fuel. The commissioner may authorize a school board to extend the length of the instructional day so that it approximately offsets the reduction in the total number of instructional

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Commissioner of Education, in times of emergency, as declared by the Governor, to reduce the total number of instructional days a school is required to be in session. The commissioner may also authorize a school board to offset, approximately, the reduction in instructional days through an increase in the length of the instructional day that the school is actually in session.