

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 465

S.P. 152

February 1, 2007

An Act To Prohibit School Administrative Units from Advocating in Political Activity

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 TURNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4010** is enacted to read:

3 **§4010. Political activities prohibited**

4 Political activities are prohibited in school administrative units as follows.

5 **1. Prohibition.** A member of a school board, a superintendent or an employee of a
6 school administrative unit may not engage in political activity in the form of sending
7 information to students' households, including any material that is intended to influence a
8 voter's opinion or that expressly advocates for or against any political candidate,
9 referendum question or issue that is placed on the ballot for voters.

10 **2. Exceptions.** Subsection 1 does not apply to the adoption of the annual school
11 budget or other school budget questions that require voter approval.

12 **3. Penalty.** A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which
13 a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 for each offense may be adjudged.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill prohibits members of a school board, superintendents and employees of a
16 school administrative unit from engaging in political activity that is intended to influence
17 a voter's opinion or that expressly advocates for or against any political candidate,
18 referendum question or issue that is placed on the ballot for voters. The bill also provides
19 a penalty for persons who violate this prohibition on political activity.