

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 483

H.P. 367

House of Representatives, February 1, 2007

An Act To Require That Public Schools Start after Labor Day

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative VALENTINO of Saco.
Cosponsored by Representative HOLMAN of Fayette and
Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, BEAUDETTE of Biddeford, HOGAN of Old Orchard
Beach, MUSE of Fryeburg, NORTON of Bangor, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland,
Senator: COURTNEY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 662, Pt. A, §10,
3 is further amended to read:

4 **1. Number.** A school administrative unit shall make provision for the maintenance
5 of all of its schools for at least 180 days a year. A 180-day school year may not begin
6 before the official Labor Day holiday of each year. At least 175 days ~~shall~~ must be used
7 for instruction. In meeting the requirement of a 180-day school year, no more than 5 days
8 may be used for in-service education of teachers, administrative meetings, parent-teacher
9 conferences, records' days and similar activities.

10 A. The commissioner may reduce or waive the minimum number of days required
11 on application from a school board. The application must be supported in writing
12 with a statement of the reasons for the request.

13 B. Notwithstanding any other section of the statutes, school committees, with the
14 approval of the commissioner, may adopt or amend rules necessary to implement an
15 extended school year at the local level. The commissioner may make appropriate
16 adjustments, not to exceed the allowable subsidy, to ~~insure~~ ensure fair and equitable
17 treatment in the distribution of state aid.

18 C. Notwithstanding this subsection, the commissioner shall promulgate a rule to
19 provide that local school units may allow secondary school students to graduate up to
20 5 school days prior to the regular end of the school year.

21 D. A school administrative unit, operating under a plan approved by the
22 commissioner, may provide for the use of up to 5 of the 175 instructional days
23 required by this section to be used for screening incoming first year students for the
24 purpose of identifying children with disabilities and students at risk of school failure
25 as required by state or federal law.

26 E. Notwithstanding this subsection and any other provision of law, for school years
27 1991-92 and 1992-93, a school administrative unit may reduce the number of days
28 for the maintenance of all its schools by 5 days a year. A school administrative unit
29 that decides to reduce the number of school days for school year 1991-92 or 1992-93,
30 or both, shall notify the commissioner in writing of its plan.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill requires that a 180-day school year not begin before Labor Day of each year.