

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 791

S.P. 240

February 15, 2007

An Act To Ensure Equitable Geographic Representation on the State Board of Education

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 RAYE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative SUTHERLAND of Chapman and
Senators: BOWMAN of York, MILLS of Somerset, SCHNEIDER of Penobscot, WESTON of
Waldo, Representatives: EDGECOMB of Caribou, McFADDEN of Dennysville, PINGREE of
North Haven, TARDY of Newport.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §401, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Appointment.** The state board ~~shall consist~~ consists of 9 members ~~who shall be~~,
5 appointed by the Governor. Four members must reside in the State's First Congressional
6 District, 4 members must reside in the State's Second Congressional District and one
7 member may reside in either the First Congressional District or the Second Congressional
8 District. Of the 9 members, 2 members must reside in a municipality with a population of
9 10,000 or more; 2 members must reside in a municipality with a population between
10 5,000 and 9,999; 4 members must reside in a municipality with a population of 4,999 or
11 less, with a resident of a municipality or unorganized territory with a population of less
12 than 1,500 appointed to at least one, but not more than 2, of these 4 seats; and one
13 member may be appointed from any community, without regard to population. Each
14 appointment shall be is subject to review by the joint standing committee of the
15 Legislature having jurisdiction over education and to confirmation by the Legislature.

16 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §401, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 851, §2, is further
17 amended to read:

18 **2. Composition.** The membership of the state board ~~shall~~ must be broadly
19 representative of the ~~public and the geographic~~ regions of the State and of municipalities
20 of varying sizes. A person whose income is derived in substantial portion from work as a
21 teacher or as an administrator in an educational institution ~~may~~ is not be eligible for
22 appointment to or service on the state board. Members must have a strong interest in and
23 knowledge of education.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill changes the composition of the State Board of Education by requiring that
26 membership of the board be broadly representative of the geographic regions of the State
27 and of municipalities of varying sizes.