

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1385

H.P. 977

House of Representatives, March 13, 2007

An Act To Strengthen Arts Education for All Maine Students

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAIN of Orono.
Cosponsored by Senator TURNER of Cumberland and
Representatives: MILLS of Farmington, PINGREE of North Haven, PRESCOTT of Topsham,
WEBSTER of Freeport, Senator: MITCHELL of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4722, sub-§2, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. C,
3 §§5 and 7, is amended to read:

4 E. Fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics or drama--~~one year~~ 2 years.

5 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6202-A, sub-§3, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 446, §4, is
6 amended to read:

7 C. By the 2011-2012 school year, the awarding of learning results endorsements
8 must be determined by student achievement of the standards of the system of learning
9 results in each of the 8 content areas of the system of learning results based on the
10 school administrative unit's assessment system. Student achievement in the visual
11 and performing arts must be assessed based in part on a portfolio or performance.

12 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6202-A, sub-§4, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 446, §4, is
13 amended to read:

14 C. By the 2011-2012 school year, the awarding of learning results endorsements in
15 addition to the high school diploma for publicly funded students in private schools
16 must be determined by student achievement of the standards of the system of learning
17 results in each of the 8 content areas of the system of learning results, in addition to
18 other requirements as established by the trustees. Student achievement in the visual
19 and performing arts must be assessed based in part on a portfolio or performance.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill changes the courses required for a high school diploma to include 2 years of
22 courses in the fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics or drama. Current law
23 requires one year of courses in the fine arts. The bill also requires that, when assessment
24 of secondary students is required in all 8 content areas of the system of learning results,
25 student achievement in the visual and performing arts be assessed based in part on a
26 portfolio or performance.