

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1525

S.P. 548

March 20, 2007

An Act To Promote Compassion in Schoolchildren

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PERRY of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4704-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§4704-A. Promoting compassion and humanity**

4 The commissioner shall prescribe by rule a course of study for all students in
5 elementary and secondary schools, including private institutions, and for the
6 homeschooling curriculum. The course must include the principles of compassion and
7 humanity to all living creatures, including animals and birds. For the purpose of this
8 section, “compassion” means empathy and awareness of the interdependence of living
9 things. The course of study must at a minimum be for 1/2 hour per week during the
10 school year.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to prescribe by rule a course of
13 study to instruct students in all grades, including homeschooled students and students in
14 private schools, or the principles of compassion and humanity to all living creatures,
15 including animals and birds. The course must be at a minimum 1/2 hour per week during
16 the school year.