

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 609

H.P. 428

House of Representatives, February 21, 2013

An Act To Increase Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative GILBERT of Jay.

Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and

Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, BEAUDOIN of Biddeford, BEAVERS of South Berwick, BECK of Waterville, BENNETT of Kennebunk, BERRY of Bowdoinham, BRIGGS of Mexico, CASSIDY of Lubec, CHAPMAN of Brooksville, CHENETTE of Saco, CHIPMAN of Portland, COOPER of Yarmouth, COTTA of China, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, DAVIS of Sangerville, DICKERSON of Rockland, DION of Portland, DORNEY of Norridgewock, DUNPHY of Embden, DUPREY of Hampden, EVANGELOS of Friendship, Speaker EVES of North Berwick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, FOWLE of Vassalboro, FREDETTE of Newport, GATTINE of Westbrook, GIDEON of Freeport, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GOODE of Bangor, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRANT of Gardiner, HAMANN of South Portland, HARLOW of Portland, HARVELL of Farmington, HERBIG of Belfast, HICKMAN of Winthrop, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, JOHNSON of Greenville, JONES of Freedom, KAENRATH of South Portland, KESCHL of Belgrade, KNIGHT of Livermore Falls, KORNFIELD of Bangor, KRUGER of Thomaston, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LIBBY of Lewiston, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, MacDONALD of Boothbay, MAKER of Calais, MALABY of Hancock, MARKS of Pittston, MASON of Topsham, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McELWEE of Caribou, McLEAN of Gorham, MONAGHAN-DERRIG of Cape Elizabeth, MOONEN of Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, MORRISON of South Portland, NADEAU of Winslow, NELSON of Falmouth, NEWENDYKE of Litchfield, NUTTING of Oakland, PEOPLES of Westbrook, PLANTE of Berwick, POWERS of Naples, PRINGLE of Windham, ROCHELO of Biddeford, RUSSELL of Portland, RYKERSON of Kittery, SANBORN of Gorham, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SAXTON of Harpswell, SCHNECK of Bangor, SIROCKI of Scarborough, SOCTOMAH of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, STANLEY of Medway, STUCKEY of Portland, THERIAULT of Madawaska, TIMBERLAKE of Turner, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono, TREAT of Hallowell, VILLA of Harrison, VOLK of Scarborough, WELSH of Rockport, WERTS of Auburn, WILSON of Augusta, WINCHENBACH of Waldoboro, Senators: President ALFOND of Cumberland, CAIN of Penobscot, DUTREMBLE of York, GERZOFISKY of Cumberland, HASKELL of Cumberland, JACKSON of Aroostook, JOHNSON of Lincoln, LANGLEY of Hancock, PATRICK of Oxford, SAVIELLO of Franklin, TUTTLE of York, VALENTINO of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5, ¶O**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 141, §9, is
3 further amended to read:

4 O. Preparation of a written local policy and implementation of training for all
5 guidance counselors and school personnel who administer reintegration planning
6 pursuant to section 254, subsection 12, who participate in a reintegration team and
7 who have access to confidential criminal justice information regarding juveniles
8 pursuant to section 1055, subsection 12; ~~and~~

9 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5, ¶P**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 141, §10, is
10 amended to read:

11 P. Provision of family outreach and support programs designed to improve parent-
12 school relations and parenting skills consistent with section 4252, subsection 8; and

13 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5, ¶Q** is enacted to read:

14 Q. Suicide prevention awareness education for all school personnel and suicide
15 prevention and intervention training for certain personnel.

16 **Sec. 4. Rules.** The Department of Education shall adopt rules to implement
17 standards for suicide prevention awareness education and for suicide prevention and
18 intervention training as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4502,
19 subsection 5, paragraph Q. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are designated as
20 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Rules adopted
21 pursuant to this section must include but are not limited to the following:

22 **1. Suicide prevention awareness education for all school personnel.** A
23 requirement, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year for high schools and in the 2015-
24 2016 school year for elementary and middle schools, of completion of a one to 2 hour in-
25 service training module in suicide prevention by all school personnel. This requirement
26 must apply to all school personnel by the commencement of the school year or for those
27 employees who are newly hired within 6 months from the beginning of employment.
28 Suicide prevention awareness education must be repeated every 5 years; and

29 **2. Suicide prevention and intervention training per school administrative unit.**
30 A requirement, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, of completion of a one-day
31 course in suicide prevention and intervention training that will result in at least 2 school
32 personnel trained in suicide prevention and intervention in each school administrative
33 unit and in each island, charter and public school that is not in a school administrative
34 unit. Additional trained school personnel above the minimum of 2 are required if the
35 number of students in the school administrative unit is above 1,000 as follows: For
36 1,001-1,500 students, one additional school personnel; for 1,501-2,000 students, 2
37 additional school personnel; for 2,001-2,500 students, 3 additional school personnel; for
38 2,501-3,000 students, 4 additional school personnel; for 3,001-3,500 students, 5
39 additional school personnel; for 3,501-4,000 students, 6 additional school personnel; for
40 4,001-4,500 students, 7 additional school personnel; for 4,501-5,000 students, 8
41 additional school personnel; for 5,001-5,500 students, 9 additional school personnel; for

1 5,501-6,000 students, 10 additional school personnel; for 6,001-6,500 students, 11
2 additional school personnel; for 6,501-7,000 students, 12 additional school personnel; for
3 7,001-7,500 students, 13 additional school personnel; and for 7,501 or more students, 14
4 additional school personnel. Suicide prevention and intervention training must be
5 repeated every 5 years.

6 Suicide prevention awareness education and suicide prevention and intervention
7 training under this section must conform to national guidelines adopted by organizations
8 that offer best practice, research-based training. Suicide prevention awareness education
9 must be made available on a publicly accessible website. Training pursuant to this
10 section must count toward satisfaction of professional development requirements for the
11 Department of Education and licensure requirements for licensed professionals.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill requires the Department of Education to adopt rules on standards for schools
14 and school administrative units for suicide prevention education and training. The
15 training and education will include suicide prevention awareness education for all
16 personnel and more advanced suicide prevention and intervention training for at least 2
17 persons per school district.