

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 699

S.P. 248

In Senate, February 26, 2013

An Act To Allow Public Schools To Offer Classes Limited to Students of a Single Gender

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TUTTLE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative BOLAND of Sanford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§33-A** is enacted to read:

3 **33-A. Single-gender class.** "Single-gender class" means an elementary or secondary
4 school class comprised of students of the same sex.

5 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4703, sub-§§8 and 9,** as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §7,
6 are amended to read:

7 **8. Dual enrollment.** Dual enrollment; ~~or~~

8 **9. Gifted and talented programs.** Gifted and talented programs; or

9 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4703, sub-§10** is enacted to read:

10 **10. Single-gender classes.** In accordance with section 4703-A, single-gender
11 classes.

12 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4703-A** is enacted to read:

13 **§4703-A. Single-gender classes**

14 An elementary or secondary school that offers a single-gender class pursuant to
15 section 4703, subsection 10 shall first establish a policy that ensures that the
16 single-gender class is substantially related to achieving important educational objectives.
17 A school also shall ensure that participation in a single-gender class is voluntary and shall
18 offer a substantially equal coeducational class to all students. A school that offers a
19 single-gender class shall conduct an evaluation of that class at least every 2 years and
20 shall maintain records that demonstrate compliance with other state and federal laws
21 governing single-gender classes during the evaluation period.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill adds single-gender classes to the pathways that may be used to provide
24 learning opportunities for elementary and secondary school students in the State. The bill
25 also specifies policies that elementary and secondary schools must adopt before offering
26 single-gender classes. It also provides a definition of "single-gender class" in the Maine
27 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A.