

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1143

H.P. 808

House of Representatives, March 21, 2013

An Act To Develop Young Readers

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative NELSON of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by President ALFOND of Cumberland and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, FARNSWORTH of Portland, HOBBS of Saco,
McLEAN of Gorham, RANKIN of Hiram, SANBORN of Gorham, Senator: LANGLEY of
Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §254, sub-§18** is enacted to read:

3 **18. Early reader program; coordination.** The commissioner shall establish a
4 program to encourage the early exposure of infants and children in the State to books and
5 reading. The commissioner shall coordinate the department's efforts with those of any
6 individual, group, foundation or corporation or other agency of government that has
7 established a program to encourage early reading and may accept for the department any
8 funds from any individual, group, foundation or corporation or other agency of
9 government to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

10 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1258, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is
11 amended to read:

12 A school administrative district shall maintain a program ~~which~~ that includes
13 kindergarten to grade 12. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a school
14 administrative district shall provide a full-day kindergarten program.

15 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §1479, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 171, §2, is further
16 amended to read:

17 A regional school unit shall maintain a program that includes kindergarten to grade
18 12 except for the school administrative districts that did not operate kindergarten to grade
19 12 that were reformulated into regional school units in accordance with Public Law 2007,
20 chapter 240, Part XXXX, section 36, subsection 12, as amended by Public Law 2007,
21 chapter 668, section 48. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a regional school
22 unit that provides a program that includes kindergarten shall provide a full-day
23 kindergarten program.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 The purpose of this bill is to facilitate the development of young readers by:

26 1. Requiring the Commissioner of Education to establish a program to encourage the
27 early exposure of infants and children in the State to books and reading. The bill directs
28 the commissioner to coordinate the Department of Education's efforts with those of any
29 other agency of government, individual, group, foundation or corporation that has
30 established a program to encourage early reading and authorizes the acceptance of any
31 funds for these purposes from any other agency of government, individual, group,
32 foundation or corporation; and

33 2. Requiring that beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, school units that offer
34 kindergarten programs provide full-day kindergarten programs.