

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1241

H.P. 875

House of Representatives, March 27, 2013

An Act To Protect School Athletes from Head Injuries

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin and
Representatives: JONES of Freedom, KAENRATH of South Portland, MAKER of Calais,
MORRISON of South Portland, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, THERIAULT of Madawaska,
TYLER of Windham, WERTS of Auburn.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6555** is enacted to read:

3 **§6555. Head protection for certain athletic activities**

4 Beginning July 1, 2014, a student while participating in field hockey, lacrosse,
5 snowboarding or skiing as part of the curriculum or as an interscholastic sport for an
6 elementary school or secondary school shall wear headgear that is designed for that sport
7 and provides adequate protection from head injuries that may occur while participating in
8 that sport.

9 **Sec. 2. Working group to study field hockey and lacrosse injuries.** The
10 Commissioner of Education, no later than October 15, 2013, shall convene a working
11 group to study the injuries that occur to students in elementary and secondary schools
12 while participating in field hockey and lacrosse. The working group shall determine what
13 measures may be taken, including but not limited to the use of protective equipment, to
14 avoid injuries and to avoid aggravating or exacerbating existing injuries. The working
15 group shall report its findings, with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint
16 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2014.
17 The joint standing committee may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of
18 the 126th Legislature based upon the report.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill requires all students participating in field hockey, lacrosse, snowboarding or
21 skiing as part of an activity of an elementary or secondary school, beginning with the
22 2014-2015 school year, to wear protective headgear. This bill also requires the
23 Commissioner of Education to convene a working group to study the injuries that occur
24 to students participating in field hockey and lacrosse and determine measures, including
25 the use of protective equipment, that may be taken to avoid injuries. The working group
26 is required to report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
27 Cultural Affairs, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the
28 126th Legislature.