

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

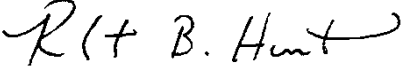
No. 1153

H.P. 791

House of Representatives, March 31, 2015

An Act To Restore Local Control of Education to Towns

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, GIDEON of Freeport, GILBERT of Jay,
KINNEY of Knox, POWERS of Naples, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SHORT of Pittsfield,
Senator: PATRICK of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §253, sub-§9**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 669, §1, is repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §2413, sub-§2, ¶K** is enacted to read:

4 K. A school administrative unit may establish a method of transferring funds to a
5 public charter school that is an alternative to the method provided in this subsection.

6 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 669, §3, is
7 further amended to read:

8 **1. General requirements.** Elementary and secondary schools and school
9 administrative units, including an educational program or school located in or operated by
10 a juvenile correctional facility, shall meet all requirements of the system of learning
11 results as established in section 6209 as well as other requirements of this Title and other
12 statutory requirements applicable to the public schools and basic school approval
13 standards. Each school administrative unit shall prepare and implement a comprehensive
14 education plan that is aligned with the system of learning results, focused on the learning
15 of all students and oriented to continuous improvement. ~~The comprehensive education~~
16 ~~plan must include a plan for transitioning to proficiency-based graduation in accordance~~
17 ~~with section 4722-A.~~ This plan must also address all other plans required by the
18 department.

19 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§8, ¶¶B and C**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 669,
20 §5, are repealed.

21 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §4722, sub-§§7 and 8**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 669, §6,
22 are repealed.

23 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §4722-A**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 439, §4, is repealed.

24 **Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

25 **5. Opt out.** A school administrative unit may elect to establish standards that are an
26 alternative to the core of standards in English language arts and mathematics for
27 kindergarten to grade 12 established in common with the other states pursuant to this
28 section and statewide assessments established pursuant to subsection 1-A.

29 **Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §13016, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 669, §8, is
30 further amended to read:

31 **2. Professional teacher certificates.** A professional teacher certificate may be
32 renewed for 5-year periods in accordance with state board rules, which must require, at a
33 minimum, that the teacher complete at least 6 hours of professional or academic study, or
34 in-service training designed to improve the performance of the teacher in the field for
35 which the teacher holds an endorsement, or in a related subject area, ~~or to improve the~~
36 ~~teacher's knowledge of, and skill in, standards-based education.~~ Teachers who desire to

1 qualify for a master teacher certificate must coordinate their continuing professional
2 education with the requirements of an applicable teacher action plan.

3 **Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §13702**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 635, Pt. A, §3, is amended
4 to read:

5 **§13702. Local development and implementation of system**

6 Each school administrative unit ~~shall~~ may develop and implement a performance
7 evaluation and professional growth system for educators. ~~The A system developed under~~
8 this section must meet the criteria set forth in this chapter and rules adopted pursuant to
9 this chapter and must be approved by the department.

10 **Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §15688-A, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. C,
11 §12, is repealed.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill repeals the laws governing proficiency-based graduation requirements. It
14 provides that a school administrative unit may elect to opt out of the so-called Common
15 Core State Standards and statewide student assessments. It provides that a school
16 administrative unit may establish a method of transferring funds to a public charter school
17 that is an alternative to the current method. It makes it optional, instead of mandatory, for
18 a school administrative unit to develop and implement a performance evaluation and
19 professional growth system for educators.