

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1492

H.P. 1015

House of Representatives, December 23, 2015

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Education Standards in Maine

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 21, 2015. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TUELL of East Machias.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and
Representatives: ESPLING of New Gloucester, FOLEY of Wells, HANLEY of Pittston,
HOBART of Bowdoinham, McCABE of Skowhegan, McCLELLAN of Raymond, STETKIS
of Canaan, WHITE of Washburn.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6209, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 40, §5, is further
3 amended to read:

4 The department in consultation with the state board shall establish and implement a
5 comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, ~~which may include a core of~~
6 ~~standards in English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12~~
7 ~~established in common with the other states,~~ as set forth in this section and in department
8 rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The department must
9 establish accountability standards at all grade levels in the areas of mathematics; reading;
10 social studies; and science and technology. The department shall establish parameters for
11 essential instruction and graduation requirements in English language arts; mathematics;
12 science and technology; social studies; career and education development; visual and
13 performing arts; health, physical education and wellness; and world languages. Only
14 students in a public school, a public charter school as defined in section 2401, subsection
15 9 or a private school approved for tuition that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded
16 students, as determined by the previous school year's October and April average
17 enrollment, are required to participate in the system of learning results set forth in this
18 section and in department rules implementing this section and other curricular
19 requirements. The commissioner shall develop accommodation provisions for instances
20 where course content conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of a
21 student's parent or guardian. The system must be adapted to accommodate children with
22 disabilities as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B.

23 **Sec. 2. Revocation of the Common Core State Standards Initiative**
24 **standards.** The content standards of the system of learning results for English language
25 arts and mathematics that were formulated to align with the Common Core State
26 Standards Initiative standards pursuant to Public Law 2009, chapter 647 are void at the
27 end of the 2016-2017 school year.

28 **Sec. 3. Local option during transition from Common Core State**
29 **Standards Initiative standards.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
30 20-A, section 6209, for the 2016-2017 school year, as an alternative to the core of
31 standards in English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12
32 established in common with the other states pursuant to Title 20-A, section 6209, a school
33 administrative unit may elect to administer the statewide system of learning results
34 standards that were in effect prior to April 12, 2010.

35 **Sec. 4. New content standards; development; rulemaking.** By November 1,
36 2016, the Department of Education, with input from a stakeholder group established in
37 accordance with this section, shall develop new statewide content standards for
38 kindergarten to grade 12 in English language arts and mathematics for use beginning with
39 the 2017-2018 school year that are distinct and independent from the standards previously
40 adopted by the department pursuant to Public Law 2009, chapter 647.

41 **1. Stakeholder group.** The Commissioner of Education shall establish a
42 stakeholder group pursuant to this section consisting of the following members:

- 1 A. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- 2 B. Five members who are teachers, including one elementary school teacher, one
3 secondary school teacher, one special education teacher, one English language arts
4 teacher and one mathematics teacher, chosen by the Commissioner of Education from
5 a list submitted by the Maine Education Association;
- 6 C. Two members who are school board members chosen by the Commissioner of
7 Education from a list submitted by the Maine School Boards Association;
- 8 D. Two members who are school administrative unit superintendents chosen by the
9 Commissioner of Education from a list submitted by the Maine School
10 Superintendents Association;
- 11 E. Two members who are school principals, including one who is an elementary
12 school principal and one who is a secondary school principal, chosen by the
13 Commissioner of Education from a list submitted by the Maine Principals'
14 Association;
- 15 F. Two members of the State Board of Education chosen by the Commissioner of
16 Education from a list submitted by the State Board of Education;
- 17 G. One member who is a faculty member of the University of Maine System chosen
18 by the Commissioner of Education from a list submitted by the Chancellor of the
19 University of Maine System;
- 20 H. One member who is a faculty member of the Maine Community College System
21 chosen by the Commissioner of Education from a list submitted by the President of
22 the Maine Community College System; and
- 23 I. Two parents of children in kindergarten to grade 12 chosen by the Commissioner
24 of Education through a public process.

25 At least 25% of the members of the stakeholder group must come from counties with
26 a population less than 100,000 people.

27 **Sec. 5. New content standards rulemaking.** By January 2, 2017, the
28 Commissioner of Education shall provisionally adopt and submit to the Legislature for
29 review major substantive rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter
30 375, subchapter 2-A establishing new statewide content standards for kindergarten to
31 grade 12 in English language arts and mathematics for use beginning with the 2017-2018
32 school year, that are distinct and independent from the standards previously adopted by
33 the department pursuant to Public Law 2009, chapter 647.

34 **Sec. 6. Assessments.** By July 31, 2017, the Commissioner of Education shall
35 develop and adopt by rule assessments for elementary and secondary schools in English
36 language arts and mathematics that are aligned with the new statewide content standards
37 for use beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised
38 Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6211, rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine
39 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

40 **Sec. 7. Effective date.** That section of this Act that amends the Maine Revised
41 Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, first paragraph takes effect June 30, 2017.

1

SUMMARY

2 This bill removes the Common Core State Standards Initiative standards from the
3 system of learning results at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. For the 2016-2017
4 school year, as an alternative to the core of standards in English language arts and
5 mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12 established in common with the other states, the
6 bill allows a school administrative unit to administer the statewide system of learning
7 results standards that were in effect prior to April 12, 2010. It requires the Department of
8 Education, with input from a stakeholder group, to develop new statewide content
9 standards for use beginning with the 2017-2018 school year and to submit provisionally
10 adopted major substantive rules to the Legislature by January 2, 2017. It requires the
11 Department of Education to develop and adopt assessments for elementary and secondary
12 schools in English language arts and mathematics that are aligned with the new content
13 standards for use beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The bill also requires the
14 Department of Education to establish accountability standards at all grade levels in the
15 area of social studies.