

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1516

H.P. 1041

House of Representatives, January 6, 2016

An Act To Allow School Resource Officers To Have Jurisdiction at Off-site Events

(EMERGENCY)

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

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GROHMAN of Biddeford.
Cosponsored by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and
Representatives: CHENETTE of Saco, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, Senator: WOODSOME of
York.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** school resource officers are designated local law enforcement officers
4 who provide security and crime prevention in the school environment; and

5 **Whereas,** schools often hold school activities, such as proms, at off-campus
6 locations where the school resource officer has no law enforcement jurisdiction; and

7 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect immediately in order to ensure that for
8 upcoming events in the current school year a school resource officer at an off-campus
9 event is the same officer who works with that student population on a regular basis; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore,

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

15 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 10** is enacted to read:

16 **SUBCHAPTER 10**

17 **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

18 **§6681. School resource officers**

19 A school administrative unit may accept from a local law enforcement agency with
20 jurisdiction over a school's premises a law enforcement officer certified pursuant to Title
21 25, chapter 341 as a school resource officer to assist with school security, safety,
22 emergency preparedness, emergency response or any other responsibility assigned to the
23 school resource officer by the school or the local law enforcement agency.

24 **§6682. Enforcement powers**

25 A school administrative unit may authorize a school resource officer under section
26 6681 to enforce laws relating to crimes committed at a school activity located on or off
27 school premises or on a school bus operating off school premises when the activity or
28 school bus is not within the school resource officer's jurisdiction upon the execution of a
29 memorandum of understanding with the municipal law enforcement agency and county
30 sheriff's office that has law enforcement jurisdiction over the school's premises and the
31 municipal law enforcement agency and county sheriff's office that has law enforcement
32 jurisdiction over the location of the school activity.

33 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
34 legislation takes effect when approved.

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SUMMARY

This bill allows a school resource officer to enforce laws relating to crimes committed on school premises and at other locations where that school's activities are occurring.