

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 49

H.P. 35

House of Representatives, January 10, 2017

An Act To Improve Science and Engineering Education for Maine's Students

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 DEVIN of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Representative POULIOT of Augusta, Senator MILLETT of Cumberland, Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, PIERCE of Falmouth, STEARNS of Guilford, STEWART of Presque Isle, Senators: DILL of Penobscot, MAKER of Washington.

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. 489, §3, 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~~ **must** include a core of
6 standards in English language arts ~~and~~, mathematics and science for kindergarten to grade
7 12 established in common with the other states, as set forth in this section and in
8 department rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The
9 department ~~must~~ **shall** establish accountability standards at all grade levels in the areas of
10 mathematics, reading, and science and technology. The department shall establish
11 parameters for essential instruction in English language arts; mathematics; science and
12 technology; social studies; career and education development; visual and performing arts;
13 health, physical education and wellness; and world languages. Only a public school, a
14 public charter school as defined in section 2401, subsection 9 or a private school
15 approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students, as
16 determined by the previous school year's October and April average enrollment, is
17 required to participate in the system of learning results set forth in this section and in
18 department rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The
19 commissioner shall develop accommodation provisions for instances where course
20 content conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of a student's parent or
21 guardian. The system must be adapted to accommodate children with disabilities as
22 defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B.

23 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§1-A, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 259, §5, is
24 amended to read:

25 C. Science, ~~in those content areas concerning cells and continuity and change.~~

26 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13704, sub-§3, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 3, §1, is
27 further amended to read:

28 A. The rating must be based on standards of professional practice and measures of
29 educator effectiveness. The proportionate weight of the standards and the measures
30 is a local decision, but measurements of student learning and growth must be a
31 significant factor in the determination of the rating of an educator. School
32 administrative units shall use state assessment growth data for English language arts,
33 literacy, science and mathematics as at least one measure of the performance of
34 English language arts, science and mathematics teachers in tested grades and as a
35 measure for the performance of principals.

36 An educator whose summative effectiveness rating indicates ineffectiveness must
37 receive an annual summative effectiveness evaluation and rating until the rating
38 improves.

39 An individualized education plan may not be used to measure student growth for the
40 purposes of teacher and principal evaluation, but an individualized education plan
41 may be a source of evidence from which learning objectives and learning targets may
42 be developed.

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Sec. 4. Rulemaking. The Commissioner of Education shall amend the Department of Education’s Rules Chapter 131, the Maine Federal, State, and Local Accountability Standards, and Rules Chapter 132, Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, to include in the statewide system of learning results and assessment a core of science standards for kindergarten to grade 12 aligned to the "Next Generation Science Standards" that was developed by a collaborative, state-led process involving the National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and others and released in April 2013. The science standards included in these rules must include science and engineering aspects of the Next Generation Science Standards that clarify for students the relevance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to everyday life and help students become successful analytical thinkers, prepared for college and careers.

The 2 rules chapters to be amended by the Commissioner of Education in accordance with this section are major substantive rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 253, subsection 9 and section 6211. In order to implement the science standards as part of the State's system of learning results and assessment beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the Department of Education shall provisionally adopt these amended rules on or before December 31, 2017 and shall submit the provisionally adopted rules to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council by the deadline established for the legislative acceptance period in 2018 in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Education to include the so-called Next Generation Science Standards for kindergarten to grade 12 in the State's system of learning results and assessment and directs the Commissioner of Education to amend Department of Education rules on or before December 31, 2017 in order to include the science standards as part of the State's system of learning results and assessment beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.