

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

128TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 630, L.D. 1731, Bill, "An Act To Recognize the Accreditation of Certain Private Schools"

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Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

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Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2901, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2015, c. 40, §2, is further amended to read:

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A. ~~A private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students that is currently~~ Currently accredited by a ~~commission on independent schools of a New England association of schools and colleges in fulfillment of its standards of accreditation and indicators and that also meets the applicable requirements of the system of learning results established in section 6209;~~ or

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Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §2951, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1997, c. 266, §8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

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6. Student assessment. Meets the following requirements:

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A. It participates in the statewide assessment program to measure and evaluate the academic achievements of students; and

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B. It meets the applicable requirements of the system of learning results established in section 6209.

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The requirements of this subsection apply only to a school that enrolls 60% or more publicly funded students, as determined by the previous year's October and April average enrollment; and

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Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §2951, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 266, §9, is amended to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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7. Release of student records. Upon the request of a school unit, ~~release~~ releases copies of all student records for students transferring from the private school to the school unit.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment provides that private schools, including private schools that do not enroll at least 60% publicly funded students, may operate as approved private schools without undergoing the Department of Education's basic school approval process or meeting the requirements of the system of learning results if they are accredited by a New England association of schools and colleges. The amendment also requires a private school that enrolls 60% or more publicly funded students to meet the requirements of the system of learning results before being approved for receipt of public funds for tuition purposes.