

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 151

S.P. 38

In Senate, January 17, 2019

An Act To Align State Law with Current Practice Regarding Required School Attendance

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor and
Senators: GRATWICK of Penobscot, POULIOT of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §3271, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 490, §8, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Required attendance.** Persons residing in the unorganized territory who are at
5 least ~~7~~ 6 years of age and under 17 years of age shall attend a public day elementary or
6 secondary school or an approved private school during the time it is in session.

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §3272, sub-§2, ¶B**, as corrected by RR 2011, c. 2, §17, is
8 amended to read:

9 B. The person is required to attend school or alternative instruction and is at least ~~7~~
10 6 years of age and has not completed grade 6 under this chapter and has the
11 equivalent of 7 full days of unexcused absences or 5 consecutive school days of
12 unexcused absences during a school year.

13 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §5001-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 806, §49, is
14 amended to read:

15 **1. Requirement.** Persons ~~7~~ 6 years of age or older and under 17 years of age shall
16 attend a public day school during the time it is in regular session.

17 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §5051-A, sub-§1, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 304, §5, is
18 amended to read:

19 C. Is at least ~~7~~ 6 years of age and has not completed grade 6 and has the equivalent
20 of 7 full days of unexcused absences or 5 consecutive school days of unexcused
21 absences during a school year.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill changes the age at which children are required to begin attending school
24 from 7 years of age to 6 years of age.