

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 549

H.P. 394

House of Representatives, February 24, 2021

An Act To Include Community Service Hours in High School Graduation Standards

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 22, 2021. 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 POIRIER of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Representative: DUCHARME of Madison.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §4722, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

3 **9. Community service.** Students must complete no less than 40 hours of community
4 service for a high school diploma in accordance with the following:

5 A. The community service may not be performed during the hours that the student is
6 required to attend school; and

7 B. The community service may not be advocacy or of a political nature.

8 A local school board may adopt policies defining community service that meets this
9 requirement, providing an exception to this requirement for a student who is a child with a
10 disability, as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B, and providing educational credit for
11 completed community service hours.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill requires students to complete 40 hours of community service to receive a high
14 school diploma. Community service may not be performed during school hours and may
15 not be advocacy or of a political nature. School boards may adopt policies to exempt
16 students with disabilities from the requirement and to provide educational credit for
17 completed community service hours.