

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 477

H.P. 294

House of Representatives, February 7, 2023

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Education, Maine School
Safety Center to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Develop Best
Practices for Lockdown Drills and Allowing Parents to Opt Out of
Lockdown Drills for Their Children**

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

Robert B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard
Beach, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: INGWERSEN of York.

Sec. 1. Stakeholder group. Resolved: That the Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center shall convene a stakeholder group to develop best practices for lockdown drills implemented by school administrative units to minimize traumatic impact on students and school staff, including but not limited to representatives of:

1. The Maine School Superintendents Association;
2. The Maine School Boards Association;
3. The Maine Principals' Association;
4. The Maine Education Association;
5. The Maine Chiefs of Police Association;
6. The Maine State Parent Teacher Association;
7. The Maine Parent Federation;
8. The Maine School Counselor Association; and
9. The American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Chapter.

By January 1, 2024, the department shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the work of the stakeholder group, specifically regarding the best practices for lockdown drills and a plan for all school staff to be trained in their school administrative unit's emergency plan prior to January 1, 2025, but also including an evaluation of the effectiveness of the range of lockdown drills as implemented by public schools at increasing safety, the traumatic impact of lockdown drills on students and school staff, the number of school administrative units using best practices for lockdown drills and other strategies to ensure students and school staff are prepared to respond to emergencies, including school shootings. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature to implement the recommendations of the stakeholder group.

Sec. 2. Rule amendment. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall amend its rule Chapter 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units, Section 5.17 to allow parents to opt out of lockdown drills for their child. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center to convene a stakeholder group to develop best practices for lockdown drills implemented by school administrative units to minimize traumatic impact on students and staff. It requires the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the work of the stakeholder group, specifically regarding the best practices for lockdown drills and a plan for all school staff to be trained in their school administrative unit's emergency plan prior to January 1, 2025, but also including an evaluation of the effectiveness of the range of lockdown drills as implemented by public schools at increasing safety, the traumatic impact of lockdown drills on students and school staff, the number of school administrative units using best practices for lockdown drills and other strategies to ensure students and school staff are prepared to respond to emergencies,

1 including school shootings. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill
2 to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature to implement the recommendations
3 of the stakeholder group.

4 It also directs the department to adopt routine technical rules amending rule Chapter
5 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units, Section
6 5.17 to allow parents to opt out of lockdown drills for their child.