

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 957

H.P. 604

House of Representatives, March 2, 2023

An Act Requiring Water Bottle Filling Stations in New and Renovated Public Schools

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 MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and
Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, ZAGER of Portland, Senator:
LIBBY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6308** is enacted to read:

3 **§6308. Water bottle filling stations**

4 **1. Water bottle filling stations.** A newly constructed public school or existing public
5 school undergoing substantial renovations must be equipped with a water bottle filling
6 station pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, "water bottle filling station"
7 means a water dispenser accessible to all persons in compliance with the federal Americans
8 with Disabilities Act of 1990 that dispenses potable drinking water directly into a bottle or
9 other drinking container.

10 **2. Water bottle filling station criteria.** A water bottle filling station:

11 A. Must dispense clean, filtered, cooled drinking water;

12 B. Must be regularly cleaned to maintain sanitary conditions;

13 C. Must be maintained to ensure proper functioning, including replacing the filling
14 station's filter as recommended by the manufacturer;

15 D. May be integrated into a drinking fountain, which is considered one water bottle
16 filling station under subsection 3; and

17 E. May be touchless for sanitary reasons.

18 **3. Building inspection requirements.** A state or municipal building inspection
19 authority may not approve the plans or specifications for a new public school building or
20 for any addition or substantial renovations to an existing public school building unless the
21 plans and specifications provide for:

22 A. A minimum of one water bottle filling station for every 200 people projected to
23 occupy the building upon completion of the proposed construction;

24 B. A minimum of one water bottle filling station for every floor or wing of the new
25 construction; and

26 C. A minimum of one water bottle filling station located near a cafeteria, gymnasium,
27 outdoor recreation space or other high-traffic area.

28 **4. Student water bottles.** A public school shall allow a student to possess a water
29 bottle in school that:

30 A. Is refillable;

31 B. Is made of a material that is not easily breakable;

32 C. Has a lid or cover to prevent the bottle from spilling; and

33 D. Is to be filled and used exclusively for water.

34 **5. Disciplinary policy.** A school board may enact a disciplinary policy regarding the
35 misuse of a water bottle by a school student, employee or staff member.

36 **6. Rules.** The state board shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.
37 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter
38 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

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This bill requires new public schools and public schools undergoing renovations to be equipped with water bottle filling stations and authorizes students to possess refillable water bottles.