

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1018

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H.P. 654

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

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**An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education  
and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions and Staffing**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and  
Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MEYER of Eliot, MILLETT  
of Cape Elizabeth, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: RAFFERTY of  
York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §401, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 15, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Appointment.** The state board consists of 9 10 members, including one member  
5 pursuant to subsection 1-D, and, beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, 2 nonvoting  
6 student members, one junior and one senior in high school. ~~All~~ Except for the member  
7 pursuant to subsection 1-D, all members are appointed by the Governor. Four members  
8 must reside in the State's First Congressional District at the time of appointment, 4 members  
9 must reside in the State's Second Congressional District at the time of appointment and one  
10 member may reside in either the First Congressional District or the Second Congressional  
11 District at the time of appointment. One of the student members must attend school in the  
12 State's First Congressional District at the time of appointment and the other student member  
13 must attend school in the State's Second Congressional District at the time of appointment.  
14 Each appointment is subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
15 having jurisdiction over education matters and to confirmation by the Senate.

16 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §401, sub-§1-D** is enacted to read:

17 **1-D. Maine Teacher of the Year member.** One member of the state board must be  
18 a current or former recipient of the department's Maine Teacher of the Year award who is  
19 nominated and appointed by the state board to serve, notwithstanding subsection 4, a 3-  
20 year term.

21 **Sec. 3. Working group to review State Board of Education.** The Department  
22 of Education shall establish a working group of stakeholders and other interested parties to  
23 review the responsibilities, functions and staffing of the State Board of Education, as  
24 established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-C, subsection 1. The  
25 department shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
26 on the findings of the working group by January 15, 2024.

## 27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill adds one member to the State Board of Education, who must be a current or  
29 former recipient of the Department of Education's Maine Teacher of the Year award who  
30 is nominated and appointed by the state board and serves for a 3-year term.

31 It directs the Department of Education to establish a working group of stakeholders and  
32 other interested parties to review the responsibilities, functions and staffing of the State  
33 Board of Education. The department is directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee  
34 on Education and Cultural Affairs on the findings of the working group by January 15,  
35 2024.