

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1567

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H.P. 1012

House of Representatives, April 11, 2023

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**An Act to Create a Training Program for School Board Members  
and Establish School Board Meeting Standards**

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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 "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls.  
Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: CYRWAY of Albion, HAGGAN of Hampden, QUINT of Hodgdon,  
SAMPSON of Alfred, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, Senators: BALDACCI of  
Penobscot, KEIM of Oxford, LIBBY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1005** is enacted to read:

3 **§1005. School board meeting standards**

4 **1. Standards required.** The department by rule shall adopt standards for the conduct  
5 of school board meetings, including the role of a school board member during a meeting.

6 **2. Violation.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a school board  
7 member violates a standard adopted under subsection 1, the school board by a majority  
8 vote in an executive session may remove the school board member from office. The school  
9 board shall call a special election to fill a vacancy caused by a removal performed under  
10 this subsection.

11 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1006** is enacted to read:

12 **§1006. School board member training**

13 **1. Training program.** The department by rule shall develop a training program,  
14 including a fact sheet, for school board members that explains:

15 A. The laws applicable to school board members;

16 B. The rights and responsibilities of school board members; and

17 C. The standards adopted under section 1005.

18 **2. Rules.** Rules adopted or amended by the department to implement this section are  
19 major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

20 **Sec. 3. Committee established.** Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Committee to  
21 Study School Board Member Training, referred to in this section as "the committee," is  
22 established.

23 **1. Membership.** The committee consists of 4 members appointed as follows:

24 A. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a  
25 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the  
26 Legislature; and

27 B. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
28 House, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of  
29 seats in the Legislature.

30 The members appointed must serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and  
31 Cultural Affairs.

32 **2. Committee chair.** The first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-  
33 named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the committee.

34 **3. Appointments; convening of committee.** All appointments must be made no later  
35 than 30 days following the adoption of rules required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
36 20-A, section 1006, subsection 2. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive  
37 Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been made. When the  
38 appointment of all members has been completed, the chairs of the committee shall call and  
39 convene the first meeting of the committee. If 30 days or more after the adoption of rules  
40 under Title 20-A, section 1006, subsection 2 a majority of but not all appointments have

1 been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant  
2 authority for the committee to meet and conduct its business.

3 **4. Duties.** The committee shall review the training program developed as required by  
4 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1006, including the standards adopted  
5 under Title 20-A, section 1005, and determine the best way to disseminate the training  
6 program to school board members. The committee shall invite the participation of and  
7 comments from stakeholders, including but not limited to school administrators, educators  
8 and parents. The committee shall invite the participation of the Department of Education.  
9 The committee shall recommend how the dissemination of the training program should be  
10 incorporated into law in this State. The committee shall explore options, including the  
11 application of federal grant funds, to defray all or some of the initial and ongoing costs.

12 **5. Staff assistance.** The Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services  
13 to the committee, except that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the  
14 Legislature is in regular or special session.

15 **6. Report.** No later than December 6, 2023, the committee shall submit a report that  
16 includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint  
17 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The committee may submit  
18 legislation based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

## 19 SUMMARY

20 This bill requires the Department of Education to create a training program and meeting  
21 standards for school board members and establishes a legislative committee to review the  
22 training program and meeting standards and suggest means of disseminating the training  
23 program to school board members. The bill provides for the removal from office of a  
24 school board member who violates the meeting standards.