

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 SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1571

H.P. 1016

House of Representatives, April 11, 2023

An Act to Provide Meaningful Public Participation at Local School Board Meetings

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: ARATA of New Gloucester, BAGSHAW of Windham, CYRWAY of Albion,
HAGGAN of Hampden, MORRIS of Turner, POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset, QUINT of
Hodgdon, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§20**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 293, §1, is amended
3 to read:

4 **20. School board meeting public comment period.** A school board shall provide the
5 opportunity for the public to provide meaningful comment on school and education matters
6 at a school board meeting. ~~Nothing in this subsection restricts the school board from~~
7 ~~establishing reasonable standards for the public comment period, including time~~ Time
8 limits and conduct standards established by the school board may not limit meaningful
9 public comment or participation in the meeting. For purposes of this subsection, "school
10 board meeting" means a full meeting of the school board and does not include meetings of
11 subcommittees.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill requires school boards to provide an opportunity for the public to provide
14 meaningful comment on school and education matters at a school board meeting and
15 prohibits time limits and conduct standards established by the school board from limiting
16 meaningful public comment and participation.