An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools

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

Presented by Representative DAUGTRY of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: BATES of Westbrook, GOLDEN of Lewiston, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor,
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Start time. A school administrative unit shall ensure that a secondary school in
the unit does not start a school day before 8:30 a.m. The school administrative unit shall
ensure that extracurricular activities do not start after 7:30 p.m. on an evening
immediately prior to a school day.

Sec. 2. School administrative units shall provide plan to Department of
Education. By September 1, 2018, each school administrative unit shall provide to the
Department of Education the unit's plan to comply with the provisions of the Maine
Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4801, subsection 2-B, including a proposed calendar
and schedule. A failure by a school administrative unit to provide a compliance plan
under this section by September 1, 2018 results in a reduction of 0.01% of the state share
of funding attributable to the cost of the components of essential programs and services
under Title 20-A, section 15671. If a school administrative unit fails to provide a
compliance plan under this section by March 1, 2019, the unit shall follow a calendar and
schedule provided by the Department of Education. A failure by a school administrative
unit to provide a compliance plan under this section by September 1, 2019 results in a
reduction of 15% of the state share of funding attributable to the cost of the components
of essential programs and services under Title 20-A, section 15671 for each year until the
unit provides a compliance plan.

Sec. 3. Effective date. That section of this Act that enacts the Maine Revised
Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4801, subsection 2-B takes effect September 1, 2019.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that, by September 1, 2019, each school administrative unit ensure
that its secondary schools' school days start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and that
extracurricular activities do not start after 7:30 p.m. on an evening immediately prior to a
school day. A school administrative unit is required to provide a compliance plan. Units
that do not provide a compliance plan face reductions in the state share of funding
attributable to the cost of the components of essential programs and services.