

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 325

H.P. 229

House of Representatives, February 8, 2021

An Act To Expand the Definition of "Education Disruption" To Include States of Emergency That Limit Students' Access to On-site Education for Longer Than 15 School Days

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, WOODSOME of York.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 3 Whereas, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting state of emergency, 4 many students have been unable to access on-site education on a consistent basis; and 5 Whereas, this legislation allows students who have had limited access to on-site education to be classified as having experienced education disruption and eligible for 6 school work recognition plans that will demonstrate achievement under Maine's system of 8 learning results; and 9 Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect as soon as possible in order to allow these students to be provided with appropriate school work recognition plans; and 10 11 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 12 13 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 14 therefore, 15 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 16 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5161, sub-§2-A, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 2013, c. 439, §8, is amended to read: 17 18 B. Absence for 10 or more consecutive school days due to placement in an interim 19 program; or 20 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5161, sub-§2-A, ¶C,** as enacted by PL 2013, c. 439, §8, is 21 amended to read: 22 C. Enrollment in 3 or more schools or educational programs in a single school year-; 23 24 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §5161, sub-§2-A, ¶D** is enacted to read: 25 D. A state of emergency declared under Title 37-B, section 742 that limits student 26 access to on-site education for longer than 15 days in total during the time of the declared emergency. 27 28 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved. 29 **SUMMARY** 30 31 This bill allows students whose access to on-site education is limited as a result of a state of emergency, such as that resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, to be classified 32 33 as having experienced education disruption and eligible for school work recognition plans

that will demonstrate achievement under Maine's system of learning results.

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