



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 387

H.P. 296

House of Representatives, January 24, 2019

An Act To Require Cursive Handwriting Instruction in Grade 3 to Grade 5

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 SAMPSON of Alfred.
Cosponsored by Senator CHENETTE of York and
Representatives: DOLLOFF of Rumford, GRIGNON of Athens, HANDY of Lewiston,
Senator: WOODSOME of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4711**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 313, §11, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§4711. Elementary course of study**

5 The basic course of study for the elementary schools must provide for the instruction
6 of all students in career and education development, English language arts, world
7 languages, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and
8 technology, social studies and visual and performing arts, as described in the parameters
9 for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject to the schedule specified in
10 section 6209.

11 Beginning July 1, 2020 the parameters for essential instruction and graduation
12 requirements adopted by the department pursuant to section 6209 for English language
13 arts must provide for continual, regular instruction of and opportunities to use cursive
14 handwriting beginning no later than grade 3 and continuing to the end of grade 5. The
15 instruction must be designed to enable students to demonstrate competency in cursive
16 handwriting by the end of grade 5.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Department of Education to provide for continual, regular
19 instruction of and opportunities to use cursive handwriting beginning in grade 3. The
20 instruction must be designed to enable students to demonstrate competence in cursive
21 handwriting by the end of grade 5.