



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 464

H.P. 303

House of Representatives, February 24, 2015

An Act To Improve Science and Engineering Education for Maine's Students

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DEVIN of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Senator DILL of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6209, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 647, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 The department in consultation with the state board shall establish and implement a
5 comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, which ~~may~~ **must** include a core of
6 standards in English language arts ~~and~~, mathematics and science for kindergarten to grade
7 12 established in common with the other states, as set forth in this section and in
8 department rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The
9 department ~~must~~ **shall** establish accountability standards at all grade levels in the areas of
10 mathematics; reading; and science and technology. The department shall establish
11 parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements in English language arts;
12 mathematics; science and technology; social studies; career and education development;
13 visual and performing arts; health, physical education and wellness; and world languages.
14 Only students in a public school or a private school approved for tuition that enrolls at
15 least 60% publicly funded students, as determined by the previous school year's October
16 and April average enrollment, are required to participate in the system of learning results
17 set forth in this section and in department rules implementing this section and other
18 curricular requirements. The commissioner shall develop accommodation provisions for
19 instances where course content conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and
20 practices of a student's parent or guardian. The system must be adapted to accommodate
21 children with disabilities as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-A.

22 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§1-A, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 259, §5, is
23 amended to read:

24 C. Science, ~~in those content areas concerning cells and continuity and change.~~

25 **Sec. 3. Rulemaking.** The Commissioner of Education shall amend the
26 Department of Education's Rules Chapter 131, the Maine Federal, State, and Local
27 Accountability Standards, and Rules Chapter 132, Learning Result: Parameters for
28 Essential Instruction, to include in the statewide system of learning results and
29 assessment a core of science standards for kindergarten to grade 12 aligned to the Next
30 Generation Science Standards established through a collaborative, state-led process
31 involving the National Research Council of the National Academies, the National Science
32 Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and
33 Achieve. The science standards included in these rules must include science and
34 engineering aspects of the Next Generation Science Standards that clarify for students the
35 relevance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to everyday life and help
36 students become successful analytical thinkers, prepared for college and careers.

37 The 2 rules chapters to be amended by the Commissioner of Education in accordance
38 with this section are major substantive rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
39 20-A, section 253, subsection 9 and section 6211. In order to implement the science
40 standards as part of the State's system of learning results and assessment beginning with
41 the 2016-2017 school year, the Department of Education shall provisionally adopt these
42 amended rules on or before December 31, 2015 and shall submit the provisionally

1 adopted rules to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council by the deadline
2 established for the legislative acceptance period in 2016 in accordance with Title 5,
3 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4

SUMMARY

5 This bill requires the Department of Education to include the so-called Next
6 Generation Science Standards for kindergarten to grade 12 in the State's system of
7 learning results and assessment and directs the Commissioner of Education to amend
8 Department of Education rules on or before December 31, 2015 in order to include the
9 science standards as part of the State's system of learning results and assessment
10 beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.