



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1283

H.P. 942

House of Representatives, March 23, 2011

An Act To Allow Students Choice in High School Enrollment

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative MALONEY of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BOLAND of Sanford, MAKER of Calais, VOLK of Scarborough, WAGNER
of Lewiston, Senator: KATZ of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5801**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended
3 to read:

4 **§5801. Acceptance of tuition students**

5 A school board may decide whether schools in its school administrative unit shall
6 accept tuition students whose parents reside in another school administrative unit, except
7 that a school administrative unit shall accept tuition students who have exercised school
8 choice pursuant to section 5815.

9 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5815** is enacted to read:

10 **§5815. High school choice**

11 **1. Collaboration.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, school
12 administrative units shall provide school choice as provided under subsection 2. Tuition
13 charges are governed by section 5805. A school administrative unit is not responsible for
14 any transportation costs for a student attending a high school chosen by a student
15 pursuant to subsection 2.

16 **2. Choice.** Students must be afforded choice of high school enrollment in
17 accordance with this subsection.

18 **A.** By September 30th of each year, a student in the 8th grade may apply to the
19 school board of the student's school administrative unit for approval to enroll in a
20 public high school in this State of the student's choice.

21 **B.** By October 30th of each year, a school board that receives applications under
22 paragraph A shall approve up to 20 students to enroll in the public high schools of
23 their choice. If more than 20 students apply under paragraph A, the school board
24 shall give preference to students wishing to pursue a course of study not offered by
25 the high school the student would otherwise be eligible to attend but for the choice
26 made under this subsection. If after giving such preference there are still more than
27 20 students remaining, the school board shall hold a lottery to determine which 20
28 students may enroll in the public high schools of their choice.

29 **C.** A student whose enrollment is approved under paragraph B may remain enrolled
30 in that high school until graduation. The student may choose to unenroll at any time
31 and attend the high school the student would otherwise be eligible to attend but for
32 the choice made under this subsection, but the student may not again apply for
33 approval under this subsection to enroll in a high school of the student's choice.

34 **3. Limitation.** This section does not apply to a private school under chapter 117.

1

SUMMARY

2

This bill requires school administrative units to allow school choice. Each school administrative unit must allow up to 20 8th-grade students choice in public high school enrollment. Receiving schools are required to take the students as tuition students.

3

4