



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 311

S.P. 126

In Senate, February 10, 2015

An Act To Improve Attendance at Public Elementary Schools

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
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative BROOKS of Lewiston and
Senator: MILLETT of Cumberland, Representatives: GOLDEN of Lewiston, LAJOIE of
Lewiston, McCLELLAN of Raymond, PIERCE of Falmouth, POULIOT of Augusta,
ROTUNDO of Lewiston, STEARNS of Guilford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5001-A, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Authorization.** A school board may adopt a requirement that persons 5 years
4 of age or older and under 17 years of age must attend a public day school during the time
5 it is in regular session.

6 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §5051-A, sub-§1, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 304, §5,
7 is further amended to read:

8 B. Has completed grade 6 and has the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused
9 absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year; ~~or~~

10 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §5051-A, sub-§1, ¶C,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 304, §5, is
11 amended to read:

12 C. Is at least 7 years of age and has not completed grade 6 and has the equivalent of
13 7 full days of unexcused absences or 5 consecutive school days of unexcused
14 absences during a school year; or

15 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §5051-A, sub-§1, ¶D** is enacted to read:

16 D. In a school administrative unit that has adopted a requirement that persons under
17 7 years of age must attend a public day school, is at least 5 years of age and has not
18 completed grade 6 and has the equivalent of 7 full days of unexcused absences or 5
19 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill gives school boards the option of reducing the minimum age required for
22 school attendance from 7 years of age to 5 years of age. The bill also provides that
23 students who are at least 5 years of age and enrolled in a public day school are subject to
24 the same provisions regarding truancy as students who are 7 years of age or older and
25 who are required to attend a public day school.