



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 608

S.P. 188

In Senate, February 17, 2011

An Act To Regionalize Supervision of Students in the Unorganized Territory

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

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 119, sub-c. 6** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 6**

4 **REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

5 **§3501. Regionalization**

6 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall, by rules adopted
7 in accordance with this subchapter, establish 4 administrative districts to manage and
8 administer schools within the unorganized territory.

9 **1. Districts.** The 4 administrative districts must be established by rules adopted by
10 the commissioner and include a western district, a central district, an eastern district and a
11 northern district. The commissioner shall work with appropriate county and local
12 officials in developing the jurisdictional lines of the 4 administrative districts.

13 **2. Administrative structure.** The commissioner by rule shall establish the
14 administrative structure within each administrative district and the manner of appointing
15 or electing and the terms of superintendents for each administrative district.

16 **3. Authority.** Once appropriate administrative districts have been established and
17 administrative district superintendents elected or appointed, each superintendent may, in
18 accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, assume all administrative
19 responsibilities and exercise all authority of the commissioner under this chapter with
20 respect to students within that superintendent's administrative district and may hire such
21 personnel as necessary to carry out these administrative responsibilities.

22 **4. Rules.** Rules adopted under this section are major substantive rules as defined in
23 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

24 **Sec. 2. Report.** By January 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Education shall
25 provisionally adopt and submit to the Legislature rules in accordance with the Maine
26 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 3501. The commissioner shall also submit to the
27 Joint Standing Committee on Education, at the same time it submits the provisionally
28 adopted rules, draft legislation that amends current law as necessary to facilitate and
29 conform to the unorganized territory school administrative district system established by
30 the rules. The Joint Standing Committee on Education may submit a bill related to the
31 unorganized territory school administrative district system to the Second Regular Session
32 of the 125th Legislature.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill establishes a 4-district school administrative district system for the
35 unorganized territory. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop rules
36 to transfer state management of the school systems in the unorganized territory to these 4

1 administrative districts. The commissioner is required to submit to the Second Regular
2 Session of the 125th Legislature provisionally adopted rules and proposed legislation
3 necessary to accomplish this transfer of responsibility. The Joint Standing Committee on
4 Education is authorized to submit a bill related to the unorganized territory school
5 administrative district system to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.