



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 871

S.P. 275

In Senate, March 8, 2011

An Act To Allow a 4-day School Week

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 SULLIVAN of York.

Cosponsored by Senator: MASON of Androscoggin, Representative: JOHNSON of Greenville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 87, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Number.** A school administrative unit shall make provision for the maintenance
5 of all of its schools for at least 180 days a year or for an equivalent amount of student
6 instruction accomplished by an alternative school calendar of 4 days of student
7 instruction per week. At least 175 days ~~shall~~ or an equivalent must be used for
8 instruction. In meeting the requirement of a 180-day school year or an equivalent, no
9 more than 5 days or an equivalent may be used for in-service education of teachers,
10 administrative meetings, parent-teacher conferences, records' days and similar activities.

11 A. The commissioner may reduce or waive the minimum number of days or an
12 equivalent required on application from a school board. The commissioner may
13 authorize an equivalent number of hours to be substituted for days for a limited time
14 period upon application from a school board. The application must be supported in
15 writing with a statement of the reasons for the request.

16 B. Notwithstanding any other section of the statutes, school committees, with the
17 approval of the commissioner, may adopt or amend rules necessary to implement an
18 extended school year at the local level. The commissioner may make appropriate
19 adjustments, not to exceed the allowable subsidy, to insure fair and equitable
20 treatment in the distribution of state aid.

21 C. Notwithstanding this subsection, the commissioner shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt a rule
22 to provide that local school units may allow secondary school students to graduate up
23 to 5 school days prior to the regular end of the school year.

24 D. A school administrative unit, operating under a plan approved by the
25 commissioner, may provide for the use of up to 5 of the 175 instructional days or an
26 equivalent required by this section to be used for screening incoming first year
27 students for the purpose of identifying children with disabilities and students at risk
28 of school failure as required by state or federal law.

29 E. Notwithstanding this subsection and any other provision of law, for school years
30 1991-92 and 1992-93, a school administrative unit may reduce the number of days
31 for the maintenance of all its schools by 5 days a year. A school administrative unit
32 that decides to reduce the number of school days for school year 1991-92 or 1992-93,
33 or both, shall notify the commissioner in writing of its plan.

34 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§5, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §60
35 and affected by §§72 and 74 and c. 12, Pt. WW, §18, is amended to read:

36 B. The rate of reimbursement per student may not exceed the state average tuition
37 rates in effect during the year of placement as computed under sections 5804 and
38 5805. The tuition rates must be computed based on the state average secondary
39 tuition rate and may be adjusted if the program is approved to operate beyond the
40 180-day school year or an equivalent in the case of a school administrative unit that
41 uses an alternative school calendar pursuant to section 4801, subsection 1.

