



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 429

H.P. 309

House of Representatives, February 11, 2021

**An Act To Protect the Health of Students and Educators by
Requiring the Establishment of Health and Safety Committees in
School Administrative Units**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 9, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREA of Fort Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, DUNPHY of Old Town, WARREN of
Hallowell, Senator: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the spread of the novel coronavirus disease referred to as COVID-19 has
4 created a public health emergency; and

5 **Whereas,** the Governor has declared a state of emergency due to the outbreak of
6 COVID-19; and

7 **Whereas,** protecting the health and safety of students and staff in our schools is
8 critical to our State at all times and is of particular urgency due to the ongoing outbreak of
9 COVID-19; and

10 **Whereas,** the State has seen strong results from collaborative efforts between school
11 boards, administrators and educators to create plans for safe reopening and operation of
12 schools during the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19; and

13 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
14 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
15 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
16 therefore,

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

18 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6307** is enacted to read:

19 **§6307. Health and safety committee**

20 A school administrative unit shall establish a health and safety committee in
21 accordance with this section.

22 **1. Duties; priorities.** The health and safety committee shall coordinate planning and
23 response to health and safety matters affecting the students and staff of the school
24 administrative unit. For the duration of a state of emergency declared by the Governor
25 pursuant to Title 37-B, section 742 due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019, or
26 COVID-19, a health and safety committee established under this section shall prioritize
27 planning and response to health and safety concerns associated with the outbreak of
28 COVID-19.

29 **2. Membership.** The health and safety committee must include as members:

30 A. Teachers and other school employees, who must make up a majority of committee
31 members and must be selected by the local representative of the applicable collective
32 bargaining unit if the teachers in the school administrative unit are covered by a
33 collective bargaining agreement;

34 B. School administrators of the school administrative unit selected by the
35 superintendent;

36 C. Members of the school board selected by that board; and

37 D. Parents of students attending schools in the school administrative unit selected by
38 the unit's organized parent group or groups or, if no organized parent group exists, by
39 the school board.

