



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 711

H.P. 487

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: CHENETTE of Saco, FECTEAU of Biddeford, GOLDEN of Lewiston,
HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, McLEAN of Gorham, POULIOT of Augusta, TIPPING-SPITZ of
Orono, Senator: GERZOFKY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§2-B** is enacted to read:

3 **2-B. Start time; uninterrupted time.** A school administrative unit shall ensure that
4 a secondary school in the unit does not start a school day before 8:30 a.m. and that there
5 is at least 11 consecutive hours of uninterrupted time from the end of a class,
6 extracurricular activity, athletic practice or any other school activity to the start of the
7 next school day.

8 **Sec. 2. School administrative units shall provide plan to Department of**
9 **Education.** By September 1, 2016, each school administrative unit shall provide to the
10 Department of Education the unit's plan to comply with the provisions of the Maine
11 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4801, subsection 2-B, including a proposed calendar
12 and schedule. A failure by a school administrative unit to provide a compliance plan
13 under this section by September 1, 2016 results in a reduction of 0.01% of the state share
14 of funding attributable to the cost of the components of essential programs and services
15 under Title 20-A, section 15671. If a school administrative unit fails to provide a
16 compliance plan under this section by March 1, 2017, the unit shall follow a calendar and
17 schedule provided by the Department of Education. A failure by a school administrative
18 unit to provide a compliance plan under this section by September 1, 2017 results in a
19 reduction of 15% of the state share of funding attributable to the cost of the components
20 of essential programs and services under Title 20-A, section 15671 for each year until the
21 unit provides a compliance plan.

22 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** That section of this Act that enacts the Maine Revised
23 Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4801, subsection 2-B takes effect September 1, 2017.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill requires that, by September 1, 2017, each school administrative unit ensure
26 that its secondary schools' school days start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and that there be at
27 least 11 consecutive hours of uninterrupted time from the end of a class, extracurricular
28 activity, athletic practice or any other school activity to the start of the next school day.
29 A school administrative unit is required to submit a compliance plan. Units that do not
30 comply face reductions in the state share of funding attributable to the cost of the
31 components of essential programs and services.