

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34

Date:

(Filing No. S- )

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE**

**SENATE**

**131ST LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 138, L.D. 317, “An Act Regarding Safe Schools”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act Regarding the Possession and Discharge of a Firearm at a School and a Study of Long-term Improvements to School Safety'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6552, sub-§2, ¶A-1** is enacted to read:

A-1. The prohibition on the possession and discharge of a firearm does not apply to a law enforcement official who retired in good standing and is currently employed by the public school or private school approved for tuition purposes and who has successfully completed the State's training standard within the last year.

**Sec. 2. Stakeholder group; report.** The Department of Education shall convene a stakeholder group composed of law enforcement officials, social workers, educators, administrators, employees of private security firms, internet technology and technology professionals and mental health professionals to study the long-term solutions to improve the safety of schools in the State. The study must include, but is not limited to:

1. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the use of school resource officers in schools, especially rural schools, and how funding could be provided, whether through the funding formula or otherwise, to support school resource officer positions;
2. An examination of the role of the Maine School Safety Center and its impact in school safety throughout the State; and
3. A recommendation on the safety of schools in the State and whether contracting for an independent 3rd-party gap analysis and forensic audit would be beneficial in identifying resources and infrastructure upgrades at schools in the State to determine where enhancements need to be implemented to improve the safety of schools and students.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 The Department of Education and stakeholder group shall report back to the Joint  
2 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, no later than January 2, 2024, with  
3 findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation. The joint standing  
4 committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the  
5 131st Legislature.

6 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
7 allocations are made.

8 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**  
9 **Maine School Safety Center Z293**

10 Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the cost to contract for services to facilitate the  
11 stakeholder group convened to study the long-term solutions to improve the safety of Maine  
12 schools.

13	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
14	All Other	\$5,000	\$0
15			
16	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

17

18 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
19 number to read consecutively.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill, which  
22 is a concept draft, and changes the title. The amendment:

23 1. Provides that the prohibition on the possession and discharge of a firearm on school  
24 property does not apply to a law enforcement official who retired in good standing and is  
25 currently employed by the public school or private school approved for tuition purposes  
26 and has successfully completed the State's training standard within the last year.

27 2. Requires the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder group to study long-  
28 term solutions regarding school safety, including the use and funding of school resource  
29 officers, the role of the Maine School Safety Center and a recommendation on contracting  
30 for a 3rd-party gap analysis and forensic audit. The department is required to report back  
31 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 2,  
32 2024 on the study. The committee may report out a bill related to the study to the Second  
33 Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

34 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
35 **(See attached)**