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An Act To Fix and Improve the System Used To Evaluate or Rate Public Schools in Maine

CONCEPT DRAFT SUMMARY

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to provide that if the Department of Education or any other state agency uses a system to evaluate or rate public schools:

1. The department or other state agency shall give notice to the public that such a system will be used, shall give an opportunity for the public and interested parties to provide input regarding the development of the system and shall convene a task force on the development and implementation of the system that includes but is not limited to representatives of the following stakeholder groups:

- A. Teachers;
- B. School boards;
- C. Superintendents;
- D. Parents; and
- E. Students;

2. The system must include:

- A. Accurate measures of student progress over at least 5 years;
- B. Rates of postsecondary school attendance and enlistment in the United States Armed Forces over at least 5 years;
- C. A peer group comparison that takes into account, but is not limited to, utilization of special education services, the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, local and county unemployment data and median household income;
- D. School attendance rates;
- E. Graduation rates; and
- F. Interviews with parents of students, members of governing boards of school administrative units, teachers and other education leaders about the overall school environment; and

3. The system may not use a bell curve and a school may not be penalized because of the failure of students to take certain standardized tests.