



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 461

H.P. 300

House of Representatives, February 24, 2015

An Act To Change the Notification Deadline for the Nonrenewal of a Teacher's Contract

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 MAKER of Calais.
Cosponsored by Senator EDGECOMB of Aroostook and
Representatives: HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, McCLELLAN of Raymond, STEARNS of
Guilford, Senator: LANGLEY of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §13201, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 420, Pt. F, §1
3 and affected by §2, is further amended to read:

4 After a probationary period of 3 years, subsequent contracts of duly certified teachers
5 must be for not less than 2 years. Unless a duly certified teacher receives written notice
6 to the contrary ~~at least 6 months~~ before the terminal date of the contract, the contract must
7 be extended automatically for one year and similarly in subsequent years. The
8 superintendent shall notify the teacher in writing of the superintendent's decision not to
9 renew the teacher's contract at least 90 days before the terminal date of the contract. If,
10 after receiving a complaint from a teacher, the commissioner finds that notice of
11 nonrenewal was given less than 90 days before the terminal date of the contract, the
12 school administrative unit shall pay a forfeiture to the teacher equal to the teacher's per
13 diem salary rate times the number of days between the terminal date of the contract and
14 90 days after the date written notice is given. The right to an extension for a longer
15 period of time through a new contract is specifically reserved to the contracting parties.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill changes the deadline for a superintendent to notify a teacher of the
18 superintendent's decision not to renew the teacher's contract from at least 6 months before
19 the terminal date of the contract to at least 90 days before the terminal date of the
20 contract. It also requires the school administrative unit to pay a forfeiture to the teacher if
21 this deadline is not met.