131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

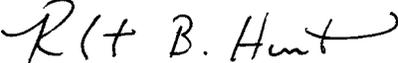## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document **No. 809**

H.P. 498 House of Representatives, February 21, 2023

An Act to Allow Regional School Units with School Choice to Opt Out of School Choice

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DILL of Old Town.

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

2   **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1479, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

3   **6. School choice opt-out.** A regional school unit operating under a plan described in
4 section 1461, subsection 3 where some but not all of the students are attending the schools
5 of the regional school unit may hold a referendum to amend the reorganization plan to
6 remove any school choice provisions expressly allowing students to attend a school other
7 than the school or schools operated by the regional school unit. The revised plan must
8 include a transition period for students exercising the school choice option at the time of
9 the referendum. The municipal officers of each municipality of the regional school unit
10 shall place a warrant article substantially as follows on the ballot of a municipal referendum
11 conducted in accordance with the referendum procedures applicable to the regional school
12 unit of which the municipality is a member.

13   "Article: Do you favor approving the regional school unit reorganization plan
14 amendment to opt out of school choice options, with an effective date of (insert date)?

15   Yes No"

16   **SUMMARY**

17   This bill allows a regional school unit whose reorganization plan includes school
18 choice for grade levels that had school choice in the prior school administrative units to
19 hold a community referendum to amend the reorganization plan to opt out of the school
20 choice provisions. The amended plan must include a transition period for students who are
21 exercising the school choice option at the time of the referendum.