



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 840

H.P. 574

House of Representatives, March 10, 2015

An Act To Support the Implementation of Proficiency-based Diplomas and Standards-based Student Learning

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HUBBELL of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and
Representative: MAKER of Calais, Senator: MILLETT of Cumberland.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

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

5 This bill proposes to require the State to advance implementation of proficiency-
6 based diplomas and a standards-based system of education by using strategic planning,
7 monitoring and economies of scale to accelerate implementation of the diplomas and
8 system at the local level. The bill proposes to meet these goals by:

9 1. Requiring the Department of Education to develop a 5-year plan and budget to
10 outline strategic supports for the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas under the
11 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A and submit the plan and budget to the
12 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 31, 2016;

13 2. Requiring the Department of Education annually to collect and report progress
14 towards the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas in public schools, public
15 charter schools and private schools under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section
16 2951, subsection 5, including the number of students graduating with proficiency-based
17 diplomas and the number of students awarded proficiency in each of the content areas of
18 the system of learning results established under Title 20-A, section 6209 and the guiding
19 principles set forth in department rules governing implementation of the system of
20 learning results established pursuant to Title 20-A, section 6209;

21 3. Maintaining school administrative unit per-pupil subsidies at the current rate;

22 4. Providing competitive grants to regional district partnerships and nonprofit
23 organizations to address statewide priorities and involve the State's business and higher
24 education communities in delivering consistent messages about standards and
25 proficiency, create a statewide research and development process to solve complex
26 implementation problems and provide on-site consultation in curriculum, instruction,
27 assessment and organizational change, increase local knowledge in key implementation
28 areas and build local support systems and services; and

29 5. Requiring the Department of Education to contract with an external organization
30 through a request for proposals process to develop, administer and track the competitive
31 grant process and report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
32 having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs, the Commissioner of Education
33 and the public on the progress of the implementation of a standards-based system of
34 education and emerging needs as the needs arise.