



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1466

H.P. 958

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

An Act Related to Excusing a School from Making Up Missed Days When It Cannot Operate During a Declared State of Emergency

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 COLLAMORE of Pittsfield. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, DILL of Old Town, HAGGAN of Hampden, STROUT
of Harrington, Senators: HAGGAN of Penobscot, LIBBY of Cumberland.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§1, ¶A-2 is enacted to read:

A-2. Notwithstanding paragraph A, the commissioner shall, on request of a school board, reduce or waive the minimum number of days required under this subsection for the purpose of exempting a school from making up any instructional days missed due to the following circumstances:

(1) The school is located in a section of the State for which a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor pursuant to Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1; and

(2) The school was in fact unable to operate due to circumstances or conditions related to the reason for the emergency proclamation described in subparagraph (1).

Sec. 2. Department of Education to amend its rules related to missed instructional days. The Department of Education shall amend its rules to provide an expedited process to exempt a school from making up missed instructional days pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4801, subsection 1, paragraph A-2. The rules must provide that a school requesting an exemption pursuant to Title 20-A, section 4801, subsection 1, paragraph A-2 may not be required to submit a waiver application.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to exempt a school from making up missed instructional days in cases when the school is located in a section of the State for which a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor and the school was in fact unable to operate due to circumstances or conditions related to the reason for the emergency proclamation. The bill requires the Department of Education to update its rules and requires that the rules clarify that a school requesting the exemption may not be required to submit a waiver application.