

## **131st MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1842

H.P. 1174

House of Representatives, April 27, 2023

Resolve, to Support Energy Upgrades at Maine Public Schools and Ensure That New School Construction Meets Current Energy Efficiency Standards

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative LaROCHELLE of Augusta. Cosponsored by Representatives: KESSLER of South Portland, MALON of Biddeford, OSHER of Orono.

1 Sec. 1. Department of Education to form working group. Resolved: That 2 the Department of Education shall form a working group that includes representatives of 3 the Maine Municipal Association, Maine School Management Association, Maine School 4 Superintendents Association, Maine Education Association, Efficiency Maine and other 5 interested parties to review and recommend changes to the department's new construction and renovation energy efficiency standards for schools with an emphasis on heating and 6 7 cooling systems. The working group shall also consider the best ways to upgrade existing 8 schools' older heating and cooling systems to more energy-efficient systems and how those 9 upgrades can be made cost-neutral for school administrative units. The department shall 10 report the working group's findings and recommended law changes to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 6, 2023. The committee may 11 12 report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st 13 Legislature.

## SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Education to form a working group to review and recommend changes to the department's new construction and renovation energy efficiency standards with an emphasis on heating and cooling systems. The working group must also consider the best ways to upgrade existing schools' older heating and cooling systems to more energy-efficient systems and how those upgrades can be made cost-neutral for school administrative units. The department must report its findings and recommended law changes to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

14