



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

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Legislative Document

No. 1860

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H.P. 1331

House of Representatives, December 23, 2019

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### **An Act To Establish a Process for the Consideration and Implementation of Changes to School Curricula**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2019. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, FARNSWORTH of Portland,  
INGWERSEN of Arundel, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4710-C** is enacted to read:

3 **§4710-C. Establishment or substantial expansion of mandated instruction or**  
4 **training**

5 A joint standing committee of the Legislature that considers proposed legislation to  
6 establish mandated instruction or training for students in elementary or secondary school  
7 not required under this Title or rules adopted pursuant to this Title or substantially expand  
8 mandated instruction or training for students in elementary or secondary school shall  
9 evaluate the proposed legislation in accordance with this section.

10 **1. Request to commissioner.** Upon referral to a joint standing committee of the  
11 Legislature of legislation that proposes new or substantially expanded mandated  
12 instruction or training, the joint standing committee shall, without a public hearing,  
13 briefly and informally review the proposal. Following this informal review, the  
14 committee shall request that the commissioner convene a review committee composed of  
15 teachers, administrators, and content specialists within the department to conduct an  
16 evaluation of the proposal.

17 **2. Evaluation.** The review committee established by the commissioner pursuant to  
18 subsection 1 shall review the legislation that proposes to establish or substantially expand  
19 mandated instruction or training and shall identify whether the subject of the proposal is  
20 already addressed within existing courses of study aligned with the system of learning  
21 results as established in section 6209. If the subject of the proposal is not already  
22 addressed within existing courses of study, the review committee shall analyze the impact  
23 of establishing or substantially expanding the mandated instruction or training contained  
24 in the proposal and shall specifically consider issues of availability of resources, staff  
25 expertise, the number of required courses of study that exist in accordance with the  
26 system of learning results and the available hours of instruction.

27 **3. Recommendations.** The commissioner shall submit a final report containing the  
28 commissioner's recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature that  
29 requested the review pursuant to this section that includes any legislation required to  
30 implement the commissioner's recommendations. The commissioner may recommend  
31 that no legislative action be taken on a proposal.

32 **4. Rulemaking.** The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section.  
33 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
34 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill requires that, upon referral of proposed legislation to establish or  
37 substantially expand mandated instruction or training in public schools, the joint standing  
38 committee of the Legislature considering the proposal must request that the  
39 Commissioner of Education convene a review committee to review whether the subject of

1 the proposal is already addressed within existing courses of study aligned with the system  
2 of learning results and, if it is not, analyze the impact of establishing or substantially  
3 expanding the mandated instruction or training, including the availability of resources,  
4 staff expertise, the number of required courses of study that already exist and the  
5 available hours of instruction. The commissioner is directed to submit a final report to  
6 the joint standing committee that includes any legislation required to implement the  
7 commissioner's recommendations.