



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 395

S.P. 108

In Senate, February 8, 2011

An Act To Mandate That the School Year Not Begin before September 1st

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

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative MALABY of Hancock and
Representatives: STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland, WAGNER of Lewiston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4777** is enacted to read:

3 **§4777. Fall semester**

4 The fall semester for the University of Maine System and the Maine Community
5 College System may not begin before September 1st.

6 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

7 **4. School year.** Beginning with school year 2012-2013, a school year may not
8 commence before September 1st, except:

9 A. For a school day with activities in which students are not required to attend or
10 participate, such as in-service education of teachers, administrative meetings,
11 parent-teacher conferences and records' days; or

12 B. For a school year of a school administrative unit that has requested and received
13 from the commissioner an exemption from the provisions of this subsection because
14 students of the school administrative unit are involved in an agricultural harvest.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 The bill provides that beginning with school year 2012-2013, the academic year for
17 elementary schools, secondary schools, the University of Maine System and the Maine
18 Community College System may not begin before September 1st, except that elementary
19 and secondary schools are exempt for school days in which students are not required to
20 attend or participate, and school administrative units that receive an exemption from the
21 Commissioner of Education because students of the school administrative unit are
22 involved in an agricultural harvest are also exempt.