



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1540

S.P. 585

In Senate, May 16, 2013

An Act To Fix and Improve the System Used To Evaluate or Rate Public Schools in Maine

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative MacDONALD of Boothbay and

Senators: BOYLE of Cumberland, JOHNSON of Lincoln, WOODBURY of Cumberland,
Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, KORNFIELD of
Bangor, NELSON of Falmouth.

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 provide that if the Department of Education or any other state
6 agency uses a system to evaluate or rate public schools:

7 1. The department or other state agency shall give notice to the public that such a
8 system will be used, shall give an opportunity for the public and interested parties to
9 provide input regarding the development of the system and shall convene a task force on
10 the development and implementation of the system that includes but is not limited to
11 representatives of the following stakeholder groups:

12 A. Teachers;

13 B. School boards;

14 C. Superintendents;

15 D. Parents; and

16 E. Students;

17 2. The system must include:

18 A. Accurate measures of student progress over at least 5 years;

19 B. Rates of postsecondary school attendance and enlistment in the United States
20 Armed Forces over at least 5 years;

21 C. A peer group comparison that takes into account, but is not limited to, utilization
22 of special education services, the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price
23 meals, local and county unemployment data and median household income;

24 D. School attendance rates;

25 E. Graduation rates; and

26 F. Interviews with parents of students, members of governing boards of school
27 administrative units, teachers and other education leaders about the overall school
28 environment; and

29 3. The system may not use a bell curve and a school may not be penalized because of
30 the failure of students to take certain standardized tests.