



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1002

H.P. 638

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

An Act to Require a Lunch Period of at Least 30 Minutes for Students and Reduce Food Waste

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 DODGE of Belfast.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §6681, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

3 **6. Lunch period of at least 30 minutes; unconsumed food.** A school administrative
4 unit shall provide a lunch period of at least 30 minutes to every student under the
5 jurisdiction of the school administrative unit unless the governing body of the school
6 administrative unit determines by vote after notice and public hearing that a lunch period
7 of at least 30 minutes would be impracticable. A lunch period under this subsection may
8 not include recess, which must be allocated adequate time separate from the lunch period
9 and, to the extent possible, be scheduled immediately before the lunch period. To the extent
10 possible, the school administrative unit shall provide a table, container or other area where
11 a student may return unconsumed whole food or beverage items that may be provided to
12 another student pursuant to guidelines issued by the United States Department of
13 Agriculture.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill requires school administrative units to provide students with a lunch period of
16 at least 30 minutes unless determined impracticable by the school administrative unit's
17 governing body after notice and public hearing. The lunch period must be separate from
18 recess, which the school administrative unit is encouraged to provide directly before the
19 lunch break. This bill also requires to the extent possible for the school administrative unit
20 to provide a table, container or other area where a student may return unconsumed whole
21 food or beverage items that may be provided to other students.