



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 675

S.P. 206

In Senate, February 17, 2011

An Act To Establish Multidistrict Online Classes in Maine

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 17, 2011. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ALFOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative RICHARDSON of Carmel and
Senator: LANGLEY of Hancock, Representatives: NELSON of Falmouth, RANKIN of Hiram,
WAGNER of Lewiston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §19154, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 2009, c. 330, §4, is
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Eligibility.** A kindergarten to grade 12 student enrolled in a public school
5 residing in the State who is 20 years of age or younger is eligible to enroll in ~~the~~ an online
6 learning program offered by any school administrative unit. A school administrative unit
7 offering an online learning program must give preference to a student who is a resident of
8 the school administrative unit and use a random lottery to select among students who are
9 not residents of the school administrative unit if the program is oversubscribed, giving
10 preference to the sibling of a student who is already enrolled in the program. When a
11 student who is not a resident of a school administrative unit that is offering an online
12 learning program enrolls in that program, the school board of the school administrative
13 unit of residence for that student must pay tuition, as established in chapter 219, to the
14 school administrative unit that has enrolled the student in the online learning program.

15 **Sec. 2. Stakeholder group to be established.** The Department of Education
16 shall create a group of stakeholders to study the opportunities in and challenges of
17 creating one online school for the State for students in kindergarten to grade 12. For
18 purposes of this section, "stakeholders" includes teachers, administrators, parents,
19 information technology specialists and any other person, group or entity that has an
20 interest in online learning. No later than January 4, 2012, the Department of Education
21 shall report the findings of its study along with any suggested legislation to the Joint
22 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The Joint Standing Committee
23 on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill regarding the study required under
24 this section to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill allows nonresident students to enroll in a school administrative unit's online
27 learning program, with the school administrative unit of residence for that student to pay
28 the enrolling school administrative unit the student's tuition for the program. The bill also
29 directs the Department of Education to create a stakeholder group to study the
30 opportunities in and challenges of creating one online learning program for the State and
31 to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January
32 4, 2012.