



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1082

H.P. 797

House of Representatives, March 11, 2021

**An Act To Improve Educational Opportunities by Exempting
Children Who Attend Virtual Public Charter Schools from
Immunization Requirements and Expanding Enrollment at Virtual
Public Charter Schools**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SAMPSON of Alfred.
Cosponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec and
Representative: DRINKWATER of Milford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2404, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 253, §1, is amended
3 to read:

4 **4. Maximum virtual public charter school enrollment.** The total enrollment at all
5 a virtual public charter schools school authorized by the commission may not exceed ~~1,000~~
6 1,500 students.

7 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §2408, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 253, §2, is further
8 amended by amending the 3rd blocked paragraph to read:

9 A virtual public charter school authorized by the commission may ~~not~~ expand to serve a
10 grade level ~~not included in levels 5 and 6 beyond~~ the school's initial charter contract or, for
11 a school whose charter was renewed prior to November 1, 2019, the renewed charter
12 contract.

13 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6355, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

14 **5. Virtual public charter school.** The child is enrolled in or attends a virtual public
15 charter school, as defined in section 2401, subsection 11. The Maine Charter School
16 Commission established under Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 10-D may adopt safety
17 protocols for physical attendance by the child at any class or school program.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill increases the total enrollment at virtual public charter schools authorized by
20 the Maine Charter School Commission from 1,000 at all virtual public charter schools to
21 1,500 at a virtual public charter school. It allows a virtual public charter school to expand
22 to serve grade levels beyond the grade levels under the school's initial or renewed charter
23 contract to include grade levels 5 and 6. It exempts children who are enrolled in or attend
24 a virtual public charter school from immunization requirements. It also allows the Maine
25 Charter School Commission to adopt safety protocols for physical attendance by such
26 children at any class or school program.