

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Regionalize Supervision of Students in the Unorganized Territory**

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 119, sub-c. 6** is enacted to read:

### **SUBCHAPTER 6**

### **REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

#### **§ 3501. Regionalization**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall, by rules adopted in accordance with this subchapter, establish 4 administrative districts to manage and administer schools within the unorganized territory.

**1. Districts.** The 4 administrative districts must be established by rules adopted by the commissioner and include a western district, a central district, an eastern district and a northern district. The commissioner shall work with appropriate county and local officials in developing the jurisdictional lines of the 4 administrative districts.

**2. Administrative structure.** The commissioner by rule shall establish the administrative structure within each administrative district and the manner of appointing or electing and the terms of superintendents for each administrative district.

**3. Authority.** Once appropriate administrative districts have been established and administrative district superintendents elected or appointed, each superintendent may, in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, assume all administrative responsibilities and exercise all authority of the commissioner under this chapter with respect to students within that superintendent's administrative district and may hire such personnel as necessary to carry out these administrative responsibilities.

**4. Rules.** Rules adopted under this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2A.

**Sec. 2. Report.** By January 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Education shall provisionally adopt and submit to the Legislature rules in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20A, section 3501. The commissioner shall also submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Education, at the same time it submits the provisionally adopted rules, draft legislation that amends current law as necessary to facilitate and conform to the unorganized territory school administrative district system established by the rules. The Joint Standing Committee on Education may submit a bill related to the unorganized territory school administrative district system to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

## **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a 4district school administrative district system for the unorganized territory. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop rules to transfer state management of the school systems in the unorganized territory to these 4 administrative districts. The commissioner is required to submit to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature provisionally adopted rules and proposed legislation necessary to accomplish this transfer of responsibility. The Joint Standing Committee on Education is authorized to submit a bill related to the unorganized territory school administrative district system to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.