

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Third Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session
January 2, 2008 to March 31, 2008

Pages 1320 - 1759

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-480) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act To Protect Employee Choice of Collective Bargaining Agents in the Educational Unit Consolidation Process"

S.P. 738 L.D. 1931

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-475).**

Signed:

Senators:

STRIMLING of Cumberland
SULLIVAN of York

Representatives:

TUTTLE of Sanford
CLARK of Millinocket
HASKELL of Portland
JACKSON of Allagash
BURNS of Berwick
JOHNSON of Greenville
DRISCOLL of Westbrook

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass.**

Signed:

Senator:

DOW of Lincoln

Representatives:

THOMAS of Ripley
HAMPER of Oxford

Reports **READ.**

Senator **STRIMLING** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Strimling.

Senator **STRIMLING:** Thank you, Madame President. Just quickly. This is a simple bill. It started out by trying to figure out how, as we do the consolidation process, smaller collective bargaining units would not get swallowed up by larger ones. Basically, larger unions swallowing up smaller unions without there being some kind of process to make sure that the smaller union had some voice in that process. The original bill was very difficult for us. We didn't really want to cut into the education

process. All we ended up doing is giving the smaller units a little more time, a couple more years, in order to figure out the process of how they may be brought together. Ultimately, we want to make sure there is one collective bargaining unit so it's not convoluted for school boards. We did want to give them a little more time to be able to make sure they could do this in as democratic a way as possible. All this bill does is extend the deadline.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Dow.

Senator **DOW:** Thank you, Madame President. I don't have a great objection to this bill. I'm on the Minority Ought Not to Pass. I just want to tell you, this opens up the number of bargaining units that the new super school boards deal with. Many have five or six now, up to 15 or 16. I just want you to know that so when you get the phone calls from the school board heads about too many bargaining units you'll know where it came from. Hopefully that will dissipate after two or three years. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Strimling.

Senator **STRIMLING:** Thank you, Madame President. Just to clarify, it doesn't open up the number that exists now. It just will not consolidate them in the next couple of years. There are no additional ones because of this. It just doesn't have them become consolidated until 2011 or 2012.

On motion by Senator **STRIMLING** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED.**

READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-475) **READ** and **ADOPTED.**

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Off Record Remarks

SECOND READERS

The Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading** reported the following:

House

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1502 L.D. 2122