



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1207

H.P. 825

House of Representatives, April 2, 2015

**Resolve, To Implement an Online Professional Development
Platform for Teachers and Educators**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HUBBELL of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** the 125th Legislature in 2012 enacted Public Law 2011,
2 chapter 669 directing the Department of Education to submit a technical assistance plan
3 to facilitate the transformation of the public education system to one in which standards
4 are used to guide curriculum and instruction and in which student advancement and
5 graduation are based on student demonstration of proficiency in meeting educational
6 standards; and

7 **Whereas,** the technical assistance plan submitted by the Department of Education to
8 the Legislature on May 6, 2013 needs to be updated to augment the standards-based
9 system tools, resources and initiatives provided to school administrative units that support
10 their transformation to a standards-based education system; and

11 **Whereas,** in order to promote the transformation of Maine education into a student-
12 centered, proficiency-based system of learning, the digital learning strategic plan
13 produced by the Department of Education in January 2013, as directed by the Governor's
14 Executive Order #2012-001, developed policy recommendations to expand digital
15 learning opportunities for students with teachers who are experts in bringing digital
16 content into daily instruction; and

17 **Whereas,** the 125th Legislature also enacted legislation to ensure effective teaching
18 and school leadership that requires the Department of Education and school
19 administrative units to establish professional development and training opportunities that
20 support and promote the effectiveness of teachers and principals as part of the
21 performance evaluation and professional growth systems that must be implemented
22 beginning with the 2015-2016 school year pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
23 20-A, chapter 508; and

24 **Whereas,** the Department of Education needs to conduct research and develop a
25 plan to implement an online professional development platform for teachers and
26 educators beginning with the 2015-2016 school year that supports networking,
27 collaboration, educational capacity and efficiency in regional administrative functions;
28 now, therefore, be it

29 **Sec. 1. Department of Education to develop a plan to implement an**
30 **online professional development platform for teachers and educators.**

31 **Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall conduct research and analysis to
32 design and implement an online platform that provides teachers and educators in the State
33 with access to comprehensive, high-quality professional development and training
34 resources that can advance teacher and educator effectiveness and improve student
35 performance. The Commissioner of Education may invite representatives of key
36 education stakeholder organizations to participate in the research and design of the online
37 professional development platform.

38 The department shall review online professional development platforms launched in
39 other states and jurisdictions, including the cost and effectiveness of existing online
40 platforms that provide professional development and training resources for teachers and
41 educators.

1 The research and analysis conducted by the department must include, but is not
2 limited to, the examination of online professional development platforms for teachers and
3 educators that provide:

- 4 1. A one-stop shopping portal to online professional development resources;
- 5 2. Links to open-source educational resources, as well as commercial professional
6 development services;
- 7 3. A searchable arrangement of linked resources organized by recognized
8 professional development topics, resource types, formats, user quality ratings and other
9 educator-requested criteria;
- 10 4. Opportunities for submission of and access to user reviews of linked resources;
- 11 5. A marketplace for commercial providers of professional development services to
12 compete transparently;
- 13 6. Virtual collaborative space for teachers and educators in the State to develop and
14 share professional development resources;
- 15 7. Guides and tools for implementation of online professional development by
16 teachers and educators, schools and school administrative units; and
- 17 8. Central organized access to the Department of Education's online professional
18 development resources related to the department's initiatives, programs and oversight and
19 regulatory requirements.

20 The department shall design a plan to implement a comprehensive online professional
21 development platform for teachers and educators that can increase networking,
22 collaboration and professional development opportunities for teachers and educators in
23 the State. The comprehensive online professional development platform designed by the
24 department must also provide teachers and educators with the means to overcome
25 existing barriers that hinder the use of online professional development resources; and be
26 it further

27 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 2, 2015, the
28 Commissioner of Education shall report the results of the research and analysis conducted
29 under section 1, along with any recommended legislation necessary to execute its
30 implementation plan, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.
31 The committee may submit a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of
32 the 127th Legislature.

33 SUMMARY

34 This resolve directs the Department of Education to conduct research and design a
35 plan to implement an online platform that provides Maine teachers and educators with
36 access to comprehensive, high-quality professional development and training resources
37 that can advance teacher effectiveness and improve student performance. The department

1 is required to report the results of the research, along with any recommended legislation
2 to execute the plan, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
3 by December 2, 2015.