

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document	No. 1571

H.P. 1016

House of Representatives, April 11, 2023

An Act to Provide Meaningful Public Participation at Local School Board Meetings

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls. Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BAGSHAW of Windham, CYRWAY of Albion, HAGGAN of Hampden, MORRIS of Turner, POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset, QUINT of Hodgdon, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico.

- 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§20, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 293, §1, is amended
 to read:

4 20. School board meeting public comment period. A school board shall provide the 5 opportunity for the public to provide meaningful comment on school and education matters 6 at a school board meeting. Nothing in this subsection restricts the school board from establishing reasonable standards for the public comment period, including time Time 7 8 limits and conduct standards established by the school board may not limit meaningful 9 public comment or participation in the meeting. For purposes of this subsection, "school board meeting" means a full meeting of the school board and does not include meetings of 10 subcommittees. 11

12 SUMMARY

13 This bill requires school boards to provide an opportunity for the public to provide 14 meaningful comment on school and education matters at a school board meeting and 15 prohibits time limits and conduct standards established by the school board from limiting 16 meaningful public comment and participation.