



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 1241

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H.P. 875

House of Representatives, March 27, 2013

### **An Act To Protect School Athletes from Head Injuries**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston.  
Cosponsored by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin and  
Representatives: JONES of Freedom, KAENRATH of South Portland, MAKER of Calais,  
MORRISON of South Portland, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, THERIAULT of Madawaska,  
TYLER of Windham, WERTS of Auburn.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6555** is enacted to read:

3 **§6555. Head protection for certain athletic activities**

4 Beginning July 1, 2014, a student while participating in field hockey, lacrosse,  
5 snowboarding or skiing as part of the curriculum or as an interscholastic sport for an  
6 elementary school or secondary school shall wear headgear that is designed for that sport  
7 and provides adequate protection from head injuries that may occur while participating in  
8 that sport.

9 **Sec. 2. Working group to study field hockey and lacrosse injuries.** The  
10 Commissioner of Education, no later than October 15, 2013, shall convene a working  
11 group to study the injuries that occur to students in elementary and secondary schools  
12 while participating in field hockey and lacrosse. The working group shall determine what  
13 measures may be taken, including but not limited to the use of protective equipment, to  
14 avoid injuries and to avoid aggravating or exacerbating existing injuries. The working  
15 group shall report its findings, with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint  
16 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2014.  
17 The joint standing committee may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of  
18 the 126th Legislature based upon the report.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill requires all students participating in field hockey, lacrosse, snowboarding or  
21 skiing as part of an activity of an elementary or secondary school, beginning with the  
22 2014-2015 school year, to wear protective headgear. This bill also requires the  
23 Commissioner of Education to convene a working group to study the injuries that occur  
24 to students participating in field hockey and lacrosse and determine measures, including  
25 the use of protective equipment, that may be taken to avoid injuries. The working group  
26 is required to report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and  
27 Cultural Affairs, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the  
28 126th Legislature.