



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1865

S.P. 650

In Senate, March 12, 2012

An Act To Enhance Career and Technical Education

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

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4722, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 313, §17, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **3. Satisfactory completion.** A diploma may be awarded to secondary school
5 students who have satisfactorily completed all diploma requirements in accordance with
6 the academic standards of the school administrative unit and this chapter. All secondary
7 school students must achieve the content standards of the parameters for essential
8 instruction and graduation requirements established pursuant to section 6209. Children
9 with disabilities, as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B, who successfully meet the
10 content standards of the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements
11 in addition to any other diploma requirements applicable to all secondary school students,
12 as specified by the goals and objectives of their individualized education plans, may be
13 awarded a high school diploma. Career and technical students may, with the approval of
14 the commissioner, satisfy the ~~2nd year math and science, the 2nd year social studies and~~
15 ~~the fine arts requirements of subsection 2~~ requirements of subsection 2 through separate
16 or integrated study within the career and technical school curriculum, including through
17 courses provided pursuant to section 8402 or 8451-A.

18 Students who experience education disruption, as defined in section 5001-A, subsection
19 4, paragraph F, who successfully demonstrate achievement of the content standards of the
20 parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements in addition to any other
21 diploma requirements applicable to secondary school students as set forth in their school
22 work recognition plans as defined in section 5161, subsection 6 must, with the approval
23 of the commissioner, be awarded a Department of Education diploma as defined in
24 section 5161, subsection 2.

25 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4801, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 617, §1, is
26 amended to read:

27 **2-A. Regional school calendars; plan; rules.** ~~Each~~ To be eligible for state subsidy,
28 each school administrative unit and private school approved for tuition purposes shall
29 work with affiliated units, as defined in section 8301-A, subsection 1, in its career and
30 technical education center or school administrative units in its career and technical
31 education region to develop and approve a regional school calendar that aligns the school
32 calendars of sending schools with the school calendars of career and technical education
33 programs in the region. The plan for a regional school calendar must meet the following
34 requirements.

35 A. There may not be more than ~~9 dissimilar instructional days within each regional~~ 5
36 instructional days on which one or more of the school calendars of the school
37 administrative units affiliated with a career and technical education center or one or
38 more of the school calendars of the school administrative units within a career and
39 technical education region are not aligned with the regional school calendar.

40 B. When career and technical education centers or regions overlap, there must be
41 common calendars for each of the schools in those overlapping areas.

1 C. The authority for approving the regional school calendar must be within the
2 school boards of the local school administrative units.

3 ~~D. Regional school calendars may have provisions for waivers of the number of~~
4 ~~dissimilar days for extenuating circumstances.~~

5 E. Plans for regional school calendars that comply with this subsection must be
6 approved and implemented in time for the ~~2005-2006~~ 2012-2013 school year.

7 F. All career and technical education students must be given access to career and
8 technical education programs for the entire instructional time required for those
9 programs by department rules.

10 The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish requirements for regional school
11 calendars. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules pursuant
12 to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

13 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §8402**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 667, §12, is further
14 amended to read:

15 **§8402. Programs**

16 A center shall provide programs of career and technical education. Programs of
17 career and technical education are eligible to receive state subsidy pursuant to chapters
18 606-B and 609. All programs of career and technical education offered by a center must
19 be approved by the commissioner pursuant to section 8306-A. The programs must offer a
20 sequence of courses that are directly related to the preparation of individuals for
21 employment in current or emerging occupations and may include training and education
22 in academic and business skills preparing students to further their education at the
23 community college or other college level or allowing students to use trade and
24 occupational skills on other than an employee basis. Programs of career and technical
25 education may also include alternative education programs and training and education in
26 music, athletics, art and other activities approved by the commissioner pursuant to section
27 8306-A. A center may also provide courses described in section 4722, subsection 2, the
28 successful completion of which satisfies the diploma requirements set forth in section
29 4722.

30 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §8451-A**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 667, §13, is further
31 amended to read:

32 **§8451-A. Programs**

33 A region shall provide programs of career and technical education. Programs of
34 career and technical education are eligible to receive state subsidy pursuant to chapters
35 606-B and 609. All programs of career and technical education offered by a region must
36 be approved by the commissioner pursuant to section 8306-A. The programs must offer a
37 sequence of courses that are directly related to the preparation of individuals for
38 employment in current or emerging occupations and may include training and education
39 in academic and business skills preparing students to further their education at the
40 community college or college level or allowing students to use trade and occupational
41 skills on other than an employee basis. Programs of career and technical education may

1 also include alternative education programs and training and education in music,
2 athletics, art and other activities approved by the commissioner pursuant to section
3 8306-A. A center may also provide courses described in section 4722, subsection 2, the
4 successful completion of which satisfies the diploma requirements set forth in section
5 4722.

6 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12709, sub-§11-A** is enacted to read:

7 **11-A. Memorandum of understanding with career and technical education**
8 **system.** To enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of
9 Education that establishes a process by which the Maine Community College System will
10 review programs of the career and technical education centers and career and technical
11 education regions established in chapter 313 that are using national industry or state
12 certification standards to determine the nature and amount of college credit that must be
13 awarded upon successful completion of an approved secondary school program. College
14 credits must be awarded upon completion of a program directly to the student regardless
15 of whether the student has matriculated in the college awarding the credit. The awarding
16 of college credits to a secondary career and technical education student does not entitle
17 the student to acceptance into the community college awarding the credits.

18 SUMMARY

19 This bill increases opportunities for students in career and technical education
20 programs by ensuring greater coordination of school calendars, requiring that students
21 have access to career and technical education programming for the entire required
22 instructional time and ensuring that the students get credit in their high school programs
23 for academic competencies gained through separate or integrated courses in the career
24 and technical education programs.

25 The bill also directs the President of the Maine Community College System to
26 establish a process for determining the nature and amount of college credit that may be
27 awarded to a student upon completion of a career and technical education program that
28 uses national industry or state certification standards. The process will be set forth in a
29 memorandum of understanding with the Department of Education and will not supersede
30 any existing agreements between secondary career and technical education programs and
31 individual colleges within the system.