

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 977

H.P. 726 House of Representatives, March 27, 1987
Reported by Representative CROWLEY from the Joint Select
Committee on Economic Development pursuant to Resolves 1985,
chapters 45 and 53.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Reference to the Joint Select Committee on Economic
Development suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of
2 Educational and Cultural Services to
3 Develop a Plan to Improve Elementary
4 and Secondary Curriculum to Better
5 Prepare Maine Students for the World
6 of Work.
7

8 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves
9 of the Legislature do not become effective until 90
10 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;
11 and

12 Whereas, despite all the positive steps taken to
13 improve and enhance the elementary and secondary cur-
14 riculum in the State, there is still a widespread
15 consensus among Maine employers that new entrants to
16 the work force have been poorly prepared for the

1 world of work both in terms of their educational
2 skills and career guidance; and

3 Whereas, based on information gathered through
4 the Maine Education Assessment Program of 11th grad-
5 ers, Maine secondary students are not receiving as
6 much in-school assistance as they need. Secondary
7 school teachers felt only somewhat or inadequately
8 prepared to relate their subject areas to the world
9 of work and too many teachers believed it was not
10 their responsibility to be involved in formalized
11 career-related activities; and

12 Whereas, any delay in addressing these issues
13 will have far-reaching economic effect well into the
14 future and will be a great disservice to many of
15 Maine's youth; and

16 Whereas, the Joint Select Committee on Economic
17 Development would like to have a plan to address
18 these issues implemented before the adjournment of
19 the First Regular Session of the 113th Legislature;
20 and

21 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
22 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
23 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
24 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
25 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 **Commissioner's plan. Resolved:** That the Commis-
28 sioner of Educational and Cultural Services shall
29 prepare a plan to improve the ability of the elemen-
30 tary and secondary public education system to ade-
31 quately prepare students for the transition to work
32 and the career decisions and changes they will face
33 through the remainder of their lives; and be it fur-
34 ther

35 **Report to the State Board of Educa-**
36 **tion. Resolved:** That the plan shall be presented to
37 the State Board of Education at its monthly meeting
38 in April 1987; and be it further

39 **Guidelines for plan. Resolved:** That the commis-
40 sioner's plan shall include a method to accomplish,
41 at a minimum, the following objectives:

1 1. Increasing each child's knowledge of the work
2 environment, career options and their own skills and
3 interests:

4 A. Increasing the emphasis on career education,
5 planning and guidance and beginning career educa-
6 tion earlier in each child's educational program
7 and formally involve regular classroom teachers
8 in the process; and

9 B. Encouraging schools to communicate better
10 with business. Business should communicate its
11 needs to teachers and students and expand their
12 knowledge of the world of work and occupational
13 choices;

14 2. Encouraging teachers to explore the world of
15 work themselves through such programs as the
16 "Educator-in-Residence" program, initiated by Maine
17 Savings Bank to provide educators with the opportuni-
18 ty to learn about current business practices. This
19 program was replicated and expanded by the Maine De-
20 velopment Foundation;

21 3. Recommending to the State Board of Education,
22 as set forth in the "New Directions for Technology
23 Education" idea paper of the Bureau of Vocational Ed-
24 ucation, that the required skills section of the
25 state high school graduation standards shall be
26 amended to include demonstrated proficiency in the 4
27 preemployment competency areas that have already been
28 adopted by the Maine Job Training Council:

29 A. Career decision making which includes
30 self-awareness, career awareness, labor market
31 information and career choice;

32 B. Life-work management which includes managing
33 personal responsibility and problem solv-
34 ing/coping;

35 C. Job getting which includes job seeking, re-
36 sumes and applications, contact skills and
37 interviewing; and

38 D. Work maturity which includes
39 dependability-reliability, communication skills,

1 personal relations, initiative/productivity and
2 worker rights.

3 4. Upgrading vocational education programs in
4 conjunction with improved career guidance and educa-
5 tion to more effectively target education programs to
6 individual needs and chosen career paths.

7 A. The Department of Educational and Cultural
8 Services shall recommend to the State Board of
9 Education that the board adopt the following rec-
10 ommendation of the "New Directions" idea paper.

11 (1) While phasing out the "general" curric-
12 ulum, vocational education should be ex-
13 panded to encompass all students who are not
14 committed to a 4-year college career and
15 shall be reorganized into 4 standard curric-
16 ula:

17 (a) Specific vocational preparation;

18 (b) Vocational-technical preparation;

19 (c) Apprenticeship training prepara-
20 tion; and

21 (d) On-the-job training preparation;
22 and

23 5. Encouraging the use of competency-based eval-
24 uation systems, particularly for vocational education
25 programs. These types of systems are designed to
26 provide a better measure of skills developed by a
27 student and are better measures of the effectiveness
28 of educational programs. The Department of Educa-
29 tional and Cultural Services shall increase its
30 present efforts in this area; and be it further

31 Report to Legislature. Resolved: That the com-
32 missioner report prior to May 1, 1987, to the Joint
33 Standing Committee on Economic Development and the
34 Joint Standing Committee on Education. The report
35 shall include the plan submitted to the State Board
36 fo Education and an account of the board's actions
37 related to the plan.

