

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 483, L.D. 662, Bill, "An Act To Count Study Abroad toward Secondary School Credit"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRS A §1001, sub-§20 is enacted to read:

20. Adoption of policy to award credit for study abroad. Each school board shall adopt a policy to award course credit to a student who has studied abroad and who seeks to be awarded course credit by the school administrative unit. In adopting the policy, a school board may consider that the school administrative unit award the student the following:

A. Elective credit in the amount equal to 1/3 of the direct instruction hours received abroad;

B. Course credit in the relevant content area if the student attains certification in that content area by a 3rd party approved by the school administrative unit. The amount of course credit must be determined by comparing the results of the certification and the requirements of an equivalent course offered by the school administrative unit; or

C. Course credit in the relevant content area if the student receives a passing grade on:

(1) The summative assessment in an equivalent course offered by the school administrative unit; or

(2) The first summative assessment in a course that is one level higher than the equivalent course offered by the school administrative unit.

Sec. 2. Administrative letter. The Commissioner of Education shall send an administrative letter to school boards and superintendents regarding the adoption of a policy on awarding course credit to a student who has studied abroad and seeks to be awarded course credit by a school administrative unit pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1001, subsection 20. The letter must address the benefits of

1 proactive communication between the school administrative unit and parents of a student  
2 and the student regarding the credit options available to the student prior to the student's  
3 participation in the study abroad program.'

4 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
5 section number to read consecutively.

6 **SUMMARY**

7 This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee, amends the bill by  
8 requiring school boards to adopt a policy on awarding credit to students who have studied  
9 abroad. The school board may include in the policy that the school administrative unit  
10 award credit as elective credit, through 3rd-party certification or based on a summative  
11 assessment.

12 This amendment also requires the Department of Education to issue an administrative  
13 letter to school boards and superintendents addressing the benefits of proactive  
14 communication between the school administrative unit and parents of a student and the  
15 student regarding the credit options available to the student prior to the student's  
16 participation in the study abroad program.

17 This amendment also incorporates a fiscal note. The fiscal note identifies the  
18 requirement that local school boards adopt a policy on awarding credit to students who  
19 have studied abroad as a potential unfunded state mandate. The committee reviewed the  
20 fiscal note and determined that requiring a school board to adopt a policy on awarding  
21 credit to students who have studied abroad is not a mandate. Because school boards have  
22 a duty to adopt policies that govern school administrative units pursuant to the Maine  
23 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1001, subsection 1-A, and because Title 20-A  
24 requires school administrative units to provide students with opportunities for learning in  
25 multiple pathways, the requirement that local school boards adopt a policy on awarding  
26 credit to students who have studied abroad does not require an expansion or modification  
27 of activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures.

28 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

29 (See attached)



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 662

LR 1657(02)

An Act To Count Study Abroad toward Secondary School Credit

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-54)  
 Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

## Fiscal Note

Potential State Mandate - Unfunded

### State Mandates

Required Activity	Unit Affected	Local Cost
Requires local school boards to adopt a policy on awarding credit to students who have studied abroad.	School	Moderate statewide

The required local activities in this bill may represent a state mandate pursuant to the Constitution of Maine. If the bill does require a local unit of government to expand or modify its activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenue, the state mandate provisions of the Constitution of Maine require either: (1) General Fund appropriations be provided to fund at least 90% of any additional necessitated local costs of the mandate; or (2) a Mandate Preamble be added to the bill and two-thirds of the members of each House vote to exempt the mandate from the funding requirement. If the bill does represent a state mandate and neither one of these actions occurs, the local units of government will not be required to implement the mandated activities.

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

To the extent that the requirements included in this bill are already in place, the impact of this legislation on school administrative units is not expected to be significant. The impact to those school administrative units that have not put the requirements of this legislation into place may be greater but are still not expected to be significant.

Additional costs to the Department of Education to issue the required administrative letter can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.