

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PART 4

ADVANCED AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chap.		Sec.
301.	General Provisions	2201
303.	University of Maine	2251
305.	Teachers' Colleges	2301
307.	Vocational Education	2351
309.	Industrial Education	2401
311.	Driver Education	2451
313.	Summer Schools	2501
315.	Training of Firemen	2551
317.	Educational Television	2601
319.	Privately Owned Correspondence Schools	2651
321.	National Defense Education Program	2701
323.	New England Higher Education Compact	2751

CHAPTER 301

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.	
2201.	Presidents of colleges; tenure.
2202.	Legislative authority for degrees; records.
2203.	Approval of degree-granting institutions.
2204.	Fees for degrees.

§ 2201. Presidents of colleges; tenure

Presidents of colleges are removable at the pleasure of the trustees and overseers whose concurrence is necessary for their election.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 140.

§ 2202. Legislative authority for degrees; records

No person, partnership, institution or corporation, or their legal representatives, shall be empowered to confer educational, literary or academic degrees unless thereunto expressly authorized by an Act of the Legislature. Any person, partnership, institution or corporation, or any of their legal representatives, offering or conferring degrees without being thereunto duly author-

ized, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, or by both.

The trustees or officers of any college or other institution of learning, whether incorporated or not, upon going out of existence or ceasing to function as an educational institution, may turn over its records of all grades attained by its students to the department to be preserved as important material of historical and record value.

The commissioner shall, when requested, prepare transcripts of all grade records, which may, at any time, become necessary to the former student for further scholastic work at another institution of learning, for certification for teaching and for other professional positions. Whenever such transcript is made from the original and certified by the commissioner, it shall thereafter be considered and accepted as legal evidence and, for all other purposes, the same as the original itself. The department shall charge a nominal fee for the actual cost of preparing such transcripts.

The commissioner shall further collect all records of educational institutions within the State which are now extinct, or shall hereafter become extinct, and shall deposit all such records in a place of safety and accessibility for future preservation and use.

This section shall be mandatory in the case of all new educational institutions and corporations chartered after June 30, 1933.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 141.

§ 2203. Approval of degree-granting institutions

Any educational institution seeking authority to grant any educational, literary or academic degree, or any junior college or similar post-secondary educational institution seeking authority to grant an associate degree, shall make application to the Secretary of State, in a manner prescribed by him, not later than May 1st immediately preceding the legislative session.

Upon notification from the Secretary of State, it shall be the duty of the commissioner to obtain full information regarding the merit of the institution to confer the degree or grant the associate degree. He shall use those standards which are commonly accepted in the accreditation of American educational institutions, and shall prepare for the use of the Legislature a report regarding the adequacy of the institution's buildings, instructional fa-

cilities and provisions for the safety and well-being of students; the qualifications of the faculty; the character of the program of studies and of the requirements for award of degrees; practices in the admission of students; the adequacy of financial resources; and the governing policies of the institution. The report, with recommendations of the state board, shall be delivered to the Secretary of State at least 10 days before the opening of the regular legislative session.

No person, school, board, association or corporation shall use in any way the term "junior college" or "college" or "university" in connection with an institution, or use any other name, title or descriptive matter tending to designate that it is an institution of higher learning with the power to grant educational, literary or academic degrees unless the institution has been given the right to grant degrees in accordance with this section.

Any institution not previously authorized to confer a degree or an associate degree must have been in regular operation at least 2 years before the Legislature grants authority to confer a degree or associate degree.

An institution authorized to confer a degree or associate degree shall inform the commissioner of any substantial reduction in its educational program or resources available to students. If, in the judgment of the state board, these changes are sufficient to warrant review of the institution's authority to confer degrees or associate degrees, it shall be the duty of the commissioner to report these changes to the current membership of the legislative committee which originally considered the measure.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 142; 1957, c. 141.

§ 2204. Fees for degrees

No officer of a college shall receive as perquisites any fees for a diploma or medical degree conferred by such college, but such fees shall be paid into the college treasury.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 143.