

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 29, 1946

To E. M. Roderick, Deputy Commissioner, Education  
Re: Right of municipalities under the law to offer the 13th and 14th years  
on college level.

Referring to your memo of April 16th relating to the above entitled subject and our subsequent conversation relating to the statutory provisions on this subject, and in answer to your question contained in said memo, if it would be feasible and legal to extend the right of municipalities under the law to offer the 13th and 14th years on college level to returned veterans who would find it impossible to gain admission to regular arts and sciences colleges, due to lack of facilities:-

Upon examination of the statutes involved, Sections 89 to 110 inclusive, relating to free high schools, I find that the statutes provide for only 12 years of secondary education, to be furnished by the municipalities; and it is my opinion that it would be necessary to have the legislature amend this particular part of Chapter 37, in order for the assessment to the citizens for the additional money necessary to carry on this post-high-school program to be legal.

Another problem would be the use of the buildings and equipment of the present high schools, where there is no provision of law to take care of reimbursements to the municipalities for the expenses which would be involved in an extension of the school years.

Another problem we should run into would be the handling of the Equalization Fund.

My suggestion is that your department draft an amendment to be presented to the next special session of the legislature to take care of this matter, and also to make an appropriation to defray the necessary expenses of commencing this program.

Ralph W. Farris  
Attorney General

RWF:c