

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Tuition Re Occupational Course; Course of Study.

**FACTS:**

A youth whose parent maintains a home for the family in Solon is enrolled in grade 9 at Skowhegan High School for the purpose of studying an occupational course in vocational home economics which is not offered or contracted for by the Town of Solon. The Solon High School does not offer two approved occupational courses of study. 20 M.R.S.A. § 1291, as amended.

The course of study being pursued by the subject student contains all the vocational home economics subjects offered for grade 9, and includes other subjects which are not listed in the school's vocational home economics course. These latter subjects are comparable or superior in content to the subjects listed in the vocational home economics course of study.

The State of Maine laws relating to public schools, among other things, provide that any youth who cannot obtain instruction in an approved occupational course of study in the administrative unit where he resides may attend some other approved secondary school for the purpose of studying an occupational course.

" \* \* \* Any youth whose parent or guardian maintains a home for his family in an administrative unit that maintains, or contracts for school privileges in, an approved secondary school which offers less than 2 approved occupational courses of study, and who has met the qualifications for admission to the high school in his town, may elect to attend some other approved secondary school to which he may gain admission for the purpose of studying an occupational course not offered or contracted for by the administrative unit of his legal residence." 20 M.R.S.A. § 1291.

QUESTION:

Whether the subject student is properly enrolled in the study of an occupational course at Skowhegan High School so as to obligate Solon to pay tuition therefor?

ANSWER:

Yes.

REASON:

It is given as fact that the reference student is presently pursuing a course of study which includes all the vocational home economics subjects offered for grade 9 at Skowhegan High School. The tenor of 20 N.R.S.A. § 1291 is that a student be permitted to study an occupational course if the pupil elects to do so. The reference section does not establish, as a condition precedent to tuition privileges, that the student be enrolled in every specified subject listed in the school's particular occupational course of study. In the present case, the pupil is studying an occupational course together with courses which are comparable or superior in content to those other subjects offered to the particular occupational area. It does appear, then, that Solon is responsible for tuition under the given facts.

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JWS/eh