

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 7, 1975

Asa A. Gordon, Deputy Comm'r.

Educational and Cultural Serv.

Leon V. Walker, Jr., Assistant

Attorney General

Adult Vocational Programs

You have asked the following four questions concerning vocational adult education, which is approved and subsidized under 20 M.R.S.A. §§ 2356-A and 2356-B.

QUESTION #1:

(A) Are the cooperative boards for vocational education authorized to offer vocational adult education in the various regions, and (B) must they prepare a budget for presentation to the appropriate legislative bodies in the form of an article in a warrant for approval or disapproval? Yes, to both parts of the question.

Part A: Under 20 M.R.S.A. § 2356-A, sub-§ 5, 2nd sentence, the cooperative boards of the vocational regions are created to deliver vocational education to their respective areas in accordance with §§ 2356-B to 2356-H. Under § 2356-B, sub-§ 2, 90% of cost of instruction for part-time and evening classes for out-of-school youth and adults shall be reimbursed, as limited by the last paragraph of sub-§ 2. Under § 2356-F, any adult seeking to attend part-time or evening programs, where offered, whether such courses are free or are subject to payment of tuition charges either by the prospective student or by the administrative unit where he resides, may attend any regional technical and vocational center established under §§ 2356-A to 2356-G.

Part B: The budget in the form of a warrant, for submission to the legal body of each unit within the region is provided for in § 2356-A, sub-§ 5, ¶¶ 6 - 8, and in ¶¶ A, B & C.

QUESTION # 2:

(A) May the cooperative boards in the 11 new vocational regions contract with school administrative districts or towns within their regions to provide adult vocational education programs?

(B) If this is done, what units will receive the reimbursement as provided in section 2356-B?

Part A: Yes. See § 2356-A, ¶ 1, and sub-§§ 1, 3 and 5.

Part B: The administrative unit maintaining and operating such programs according to the provisions of § 2356-B, sub-§ 2, ¶ 2, will receive the reimbursement.

QUESTION #3:

May an individual town within a vocational region raise money and run programs for adult vocational education for their own adults irrespective of the needs or wishes of the entire vocational region? No.

Under § 2356-A, any administrative unit may offer a program of technical and vocational education which may consist of programs at levels through grade 12, programs at grades 13 and 14, and part-time or evening programs for out-of-school youth and adults, any of which must meet all of the following requirements:

1. It shall be a regional center for vocational or technical education.
2. It shall be established, maintained and operated only in accordance with a plan approved by the State Board of Education including a survey of educational need, employment opportunities, scope of program to be offered, location and area to be served.
3. It shall provide programs of education and training, etc.
4. . . . It shall be administered by a cooperative board.

QUESTION #4:

Do the cooperative boards of the 11 vocational regions have the sole responsibility for proposing and delivering vocational adult education to all the towns within their region? Yes.

Under § 2356-A, sub-§ 5, the 11 new vocational regions are created to deliver vocational education to their respective areas in accordance with §§ 2356-B to 2356-H. The vocational regions shall be administered by a cooperative board as set forth herein.

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