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February 15, 1980

Rep. Joyce E. Lewis House of Representatives State House Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Tuition Fees by Public Schools for Driver Education Courses

Dear Representative Lewis:

You inquired in your letter of February 4, 1980, whether it is "permissible for public schools to charge a fee for driver education courses held after school hours and/or during the summer months?" Pursuant to 20 M.R.S.A. §2454 "A school administrative unit may charge a fee, based on the per pupil cost for a driver education course conducted after regular school hours during the school year." Also, pursuant to 20 M.R.S.A. §859.4, "Summer schools operated by public school administrative units may charge tuition" based on the school's per capita cost for the preceding summer. If the driver education program is being offered as part of the summer school, it would appear that a tuition fee could be charged in accordance with §859.4.

On the basis of 20 M.R.S.A. §§859.4 and 2454, public schools do have the necessary authority to charge fees for driver education courses held during the summer months and after school hours.

Respectfully yours,

Waldemar G. Buschmann Assistant Attorney General

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