

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 445**

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H. P. 311

House of Representatives, January 31, 1967

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Shute of Farmington.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-SEVEN

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### AN ACT Relating to Adult Education.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**R. S., T. 20, § 2404, amended.** The first sentence of section 2404 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

Whenever the superintending school committee or school directors of any administrative unit shall have maintained during the school year evening schools, day schools, classes and educational activities for adults as provided by section 858, said administrative unit shall be reimbursed by the State a sum equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the amount paid for instruction and activities contributing to learning in such classes, **except that courses for credit toward a high school diploma shall be subsidized at a rate and in accordance with regulations established by the State Board of Education.**

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

Statistics of the United States Department of Labor show that the earning power of high school graduates is much higher than for those not completing their senior year, and that unemployment is more prevalent among those with less than a grade 12 education.

It is financially difficult for local educational agencies to offer courses leading to a diploma. There is a variety of course needs because all adults have not completed the same course prior to withdrawal from school, thus reducing the number enrolled in any one subject. The teacher-pupil ratio is usually lower

than in other adult courses not leading to a diploma. School administrators are oftentimes unable to finance programs unless there is a minimum of 10 to 15 students per class.

The 1960 census figures show that Maine had 303,140 adults 25 years of age and over who have not completed grade 12. This does not include the large number of out-of-school youth between the ages of 18 to 24 who have not been graduated from high school. Full state subsidy in such courses in accordance with regulations and safeguards to be established by the State Board is proposed under this amendment.