

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 265

H. P. 215

House of Representatives, January 22, 1969

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Cummings of Newport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-NINE

AN ACT Providing Full Reimbursement for High School Diploma Programs in Maine's General Adult Evening Schools.

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, as amended by section 19 of chapter 425 of the public laws of 1967, is further amended to read as follows :

Whenever the 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 said administrative unit shall be reimbursed in full, for instruction, by the State for credit courses leading toward a high school diploma, but the cost of instruction will be at rates not exceeding rates for other adult classes.**

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Statistics 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 provide courses leading to a diploma. The classes are generally smaller as a variety of

courses is needed because all adults have not completed the same program prior to withdrawal. The teacher-pupil ratio is usually lower than in other courses not leading to a diploma. The 1960 census showed that Maine had 303,140 adults 25 years of age and over who had not completed grade 12. This does not include those between the ages of 18 and 24 who have dropped out of school. Full state subsidy for diploma courses is proposed under this amendment. The estimated additional cost for 1970-1971 is \$11,550.