

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 462

H. P. 347

House of Representatives, January 30, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Whitzell of Gardiner.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Providing for Voluntary Continuance of Residence at Juvenile Institutions and the Military and Naval Children's Home for Program Completion Beyond the Age of 18 Years.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, under existing law persons reaching the age of 18 years who are residents of the Boys Training Center, Stevens School or Military and Naval Children's Home are required to be discharged therefrom due to such arrival at the age of majority; and

Whereas, such mandatory discharge may interrupt or preclude the completion of educational or vocational training programs then in process; and

Whereas, such interruption or preclusion from completion may nullify progress made in establishing productive citizenship or rehabilitation; and

Whereas, several young persons now residents of such institutions may reach the age of majority, 18 years, prior to the end of the present academic year or the completion of programs presently under way, the completion of which is dependent upon continued residency at the institution beyond the age of 18 years; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary in order to assure that these residents of state institutions obtain optimum benefit from education and training presently in process; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 15, § 2718, amended. Section 2718 of Title 15 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 3 of the public laws of 1965, is further amended by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

Any child committed to the center, who at the expiration of his or her minority, is a participant in an educational or vocational training program, the interruption or cessation of which will be caused by discharge from the center, may, with the approval of the superintendent, voluntarily elect to remain in residence at the center until completion of all or part of such educational or training program.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 34, § 2953, additional. Title 34 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 2953 to read as follows:

§ 2953. Residency beyond the age of 18 years

Any child in residence at the Military and Naval Children's Home, who at the expiration of his or her minority is a participant in an educational or vocational training program, the interruption or cessation of which will be caused by discharge from the home, may, with the approval of the superintendent, voluntarily elect to remain in residence at the home until completion of all or part of such educational or training program.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.