

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1702

H. P. 1442

House of Representatives, April 8, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to School Dropouts and to Potential School Dropouts.

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

20 MRSA § 917 is enacted to read:

§ 917. School dropouts and potential dropouts

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings:

A. Recent dropout. "Recent dropout" means any dropout who has voluntarily withdrawn from elementary or secondary school within the 3 years from a specified date.

B. School dropout. "School dropout" means any pupil who, having been enrolled in a public junior or senior high school in this State, has voluntarily withdrawn from attendance at that elementary or secondary school.

2. Positive action committee. Each school administrative unit in the State shall establish a positive action committee, hereinafter referred to as "the committee," which shall convene at a location within the boundaries of that unit no later than October 1, 1975.

3. Membership. Each committee shall include within its membership the following persons:

A. A member of the school administrative unit's school board or school committee, who shall be selected by that board or committee;

B. Two secondary school teachers from a school within the school administrative unit who shall both be selected by the local teacher's organization;

C. Two students from each junior and senior high school within the school administrative unit who shall be selected by the students of the school they attend. In a School Administrative District which has within it more than 2 junior and senior high schools, the membership requirement under this paragraph may be reduced to one student from each junior or senior high school;

D. One school administrator employed by that school administrative unit who shall be selected by the superintendent of that unit;

E. Three dropouts who have voluntarily withdrawn from a public junior or senior high school within 3 years from the time they become members of the committee. These dropouts shall be selected by the membership of the committee based upon recommendations submitted to the committee by such state-wide youth organizations as Neighborhood Youth Corps, Upward Bound and Project Talent Search which deal with dropouts.

F. Two parents having children enrolled within junior or senior high schools within the school administrative unit who shall be selected by the Parent Teacher Association, Citizens Advisory Council or other recognized parent group; and

G. Two residents of a community or communities within the school administrative unit who are not parents of students currently enrolled in a junior or senior high school of the unit, who shall be selected by the other membership of the Positive Action Committee. Members of the committee shall each serve for a term of 2 years. At the expiration of their term, they may be reappointed if they meet the qualifications for their membership and if the person or body originally appointing to that membership so desires. Vacancies in membership shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

4. Duties.

A. Development of plan. The committee shall develop a specific plan to deal with the problem of school dropouts and potential dropouts in its school administrative unit and that plan shall become part of the policy of that unit. This plan shall be filed with the Department of Educational and Cultural Services no later than October 1, 1976.

B. Plan review. The committee shall convene at least yearly after the submission of its original plan to its school administrative unit in order to review the effectiveness of the plan and shall amend the plan where necessary.

C. Contents of plan. The committee shall study the following areas and deal with these areas in constructing its plan:

(1) The reasons which cause pupils to drop out of junior or senior high school;

(2) A possible development system of ongoing contact with recent dropouts for the purpose of supplying services in the area of educational

and career opportunities with emphasis, where possible, on the development of such specific programs as GED, adult education, tutorial services, job training, counseling and referral services;

(3) Development of orientation and in-service training for teachers and administrators in the school administrative unit which sensitizes and develops an understanding of the dropout problem;

(4) Utilization of human service programs within community, private and public social service agencies to service the community's dropouts;

(5) School policy dealing with due process and suspension, expulsion and other forms of disciplinary action; and

(6) Attitudes and practices within the school system which may, intentionally or unintentionally discriminate against students because of ethnic, sex, racial or economic background.

5. **Technical assistance.** The Department of Educational and Cultural Services shall provide reasonable technical assistance upon request to any committee which determines that such assistance is necessary in order for it to be able to carry out its duties under this section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes a positive action committee within each school administrative unit in the State whose duty shall be to develop a plan for that unit in order to deal with dropouts within that unit.