

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 534

H. P. 426

House of Representatives, February 17, 1977

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and 2,000 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Mackel of Wells.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Change the Duties of Regional Vocational Center Advisory Boards, the Age of Eligibility for Out-of-school Students and the Method of Approval of Regional Vocational Centers.

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

20 MRSA § 2356-A, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 746, §§ 17 and 18, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 2356-A. Regional technical and vocational centers authorized

In addition to those activities authorized by section 1285, any administrative unit may offer a program of technical and vocational education which may consist of programs at the secondary levels through grade 12, programs at the post-secondary levels of grades 13 and 14, and part-time or evening programs for out-of-school youth and adults, any of which must meet all of the following requirements.

1. Regional center. It shall be a regional center for vocational or technical education.
2. Approval of State Board of Education. It shall be established, maintained and operated only in accordance with a plan approved by the State Board of Education, including a survey of educational need, employment opportunities, scope of program to be offered, location and area to be served.
3. Programs. It shall provide programs of education and training in trade, industrial, agricultural, business, distributive, technical and service occupations to persons in secondary school, for persons who have graduated from a secondary school or for qualified persons over 17 years of age who have left school prior to graduation from a secondary school.

4. **Auxiliary centers.** The State Board of Education may approve auxiliary vocational programs already in operation when the school administrative unit makes such a request and supplies information fully justifying the need in such form and detail as the commissioner shall require. All requests made by local school committees or boards of directors for auxiliary vocational education programs shall be forwarded to the State Board of Education with the recommendation of the Director of the Bureau of Vocational Education and the commissioner. The local school committee or board of directors responsible for operating the auxiliary vocational education program shall assume full financial responsibility for paying the operating costs of the auxiliary program and shall receive state subsidy for the program and tuition income. The school committee or board of directors, where an approved vocational education program is operated, shall furnish the necessary personnel, facilities and equipment and shall be eligible for school construction aid for the vocational education space where the auxiliary vocational education program is located, if new or renovated facilities are required or approved.

5. **Advisory committee.** There shall be an advisory committee responsible for coordinating vocational education in any vocational center operating as of 1972. Membership on the advisory committee shall consist of the superintendent of schools of the participating school administrative units or his representative and one board member chosen from each school committee or board of directors by its membership. The advisory committee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from its membership to serve for a period of 3 years. The director of the technical vocational education center shall serve as the secretary of the advisory committee, ex officio, and shall keep all records required by the advisory committee. The duties of the advisory committee shall be to approve the adding or dropping of any programs offered by the center to establish quotas for sending units, to establish admission criteria, to determine procedures for reporting to the sending units on the operations of the programs and their effectiveness and to initiate and approve any plans for the construction of or addition to facilities of each center. Program or major operational changes cannot be made by the local school committee or board of directors operating the center without approval by a majority of the members of the advisory committee.

6. **Local director of technical and vocational education.** Whenever an application for approval of a regional technical and vocational center is made to the State Board of Education as is provided in this section, the administrative unit making such an application shall include in its plan for the establishment, maintenance and operation of such proposed center, provision for the employment on the staff of the center of a local director of technical and vocational education who shall meet such qualifications as may be prescribed by the State Board of Education for all such positions, and the unit shall employ such a director as a condition of continued approval of the center. The director shall be responsible to the appropriate administrative officers of the administrative school unit operating the center.

7. **Transportation.** Transportation shall be provided by the sending units in the 14 existing centers and for any satellite programs which may subsequently be adopted.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purposes of this bill are to :

1. Change from 16 to 17 the age at which persons who have left secondary school prior to graduation may be eligible for programs at regional technical-vocational centers ;
2. Change the name of the present satellite centers to auxiliary centers and change the process by which such centers are approved.
3. Change the composition of and the duties of the advisory committees to regional technical-vocational centers.