

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Title)
New Draft: H. P. 236, L. D. 282
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1642

H. P. 1440

House of Representatives May, 30, 1979

Reported by Mr. Connolly from the Committee on Education. Printed under
Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

(Mrs. Beaulieu of Portland - of the House - Abstaining)

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Clarify Equivalent Instruction as an Alternative to Compulsory
Education.**

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

20 MRSA § 911, sub-§ 3, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 499, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Equivalent instruction; appeal to commissioner.

A. A child shall be excused from attending a public day school if he obtains equivalent instruction in a private school or in any other manner arranged for by the school committee or the board of directors and if the equivalent instruction is approved by the commissioner.

B. If any request to be excused is denied by a local school committee or board of directors, an appeal may be filed with the commissioner. The commissioner shall review the request to be excused to determine whether the local school committee or board of directors has been correct in its finding that no equivalent instruction is available. If the commissioner finds that equivalent instruction is available to the child, he shall approve the request to be excused.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this new draft is to:

1. Provide that an appeal can be made to the commissioner whenever a local school committee or board of directors denies a request for a child to be excused from a public day school program; and
2. Direct the commissioner to review the request to determine if equivalent instruction is available and to approve the request if he finds that equivalent instruction is available.