

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1666**

H. P. 1479

House of Representatives, June 5, 1979

Reported by Mrs. Beaulieu from Committee on Education. Printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Amend the Laws Relating to School Attendance.**

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

**Sec. 1.** 20 MRSA § 911, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 499, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**1. Attendance; appealed.**

**A.** Every child between his 7th and 17th birthdays shall attend a public day school during the time it is in session. An absence therefrom of 1/2 day or more shall be deemed a violation of this requirement. This subsection shall not apply to a child who has graduated from high school before his 17th birthday, nor to a child who:

- (1) Has attained age 15 or has completed the 9th grade;
- (2) Has permission from his parent or legal guardian;
- (3) Has permission from the local school committee or board of directors, or its designee; and
- (4) Has made an agreement, in writing, with his parents or legal guardian and the designee of the local school committee or board of directors to meet at least once annually until he reaches the age of 17 for the purpose of reviewing the possibility of the student's return to day school or attendance in evening school.

**2. Appeal.** If a child has fulfilled the requirements under subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraphs (1) and (2) and has been denied permission to leave school by the local school committee or board of directors, the child may file an appeal with the commissioner.

**Sec. 2.** 20 MRSA § 2384, sub-§ 1, 2nd sentence, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 625, § 4, is repealed and the following is enacted in its place:

**The commissioner shall grant exceptions under this subsection in admitting students to adult education programs at the local level to any student who has left school under the provisions of section 911, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraphs (1) to (4), upon the recommendations of the local school committee or board of directors. Prior to requesting an exception, the school committee or board of directors shall seek and consider the recommendations of the positive action committee.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purposes of this amendment are to:

1. Establish conditions for pupils to be excused from school attendance prior to age 17; and
2. Establish a procedure for the admission into adult education programs of students who have left school prior to age 17.