

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1133

6
7 H.P. 879

House of Representatives, March 9, 1983

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Connolly of Portland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT Relating to the Education of
18 Dependent Children.
19

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

22 22 MRSA §3759 is enacted to read:

23 §3759. Assistance for needy full-time students 18 to
24 21 years of age

25 The Commissioner of Human Services shall estab-
26 lish an assistance program for needy children over 18
27 and under 21 years of age who are in full-time
28 attendance in a secondary school, technical school,
29 college or state-accredited job training program.
30 The program shall be operated for those who fail to
31 meet the age requirement for the Aid to Families with
32 Dependent Children program under the United States
33 Social Security Act, but otherwise qualify for that
34 program. Except for the age requirement, all provi-

1 sions of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children
2 program, including the standard of need and the
3 amount of assistance, shall apply to the program
4 established pursuant to this section. The commis-
5 sioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
6 provisions of this Title to administer the program.

7 STATEMENT OF FACT

8 Prior to February, 1982, children of low income
9 families with a disabled or absent parent were eligi-
10 ble for Aid to Families with Dependent Children until
11 they were 21, as long as they were in school. One of
12 the changes in the Aid to Families with Dependent
13 Children program enacted on the federal level by the
14 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 required
15 that Aid to Families with Dependent Children be
16 terminated on the child's 18th birthday or when the
17 child finished school if they were to graduate from
18 high school prior to their 19th birthday.

19 This new regulation required the State to termi-
20 nate Aid to Families with Dependent Children to
21 several hundred students last February and an
22 undetermined number since then. Many of these stu-
23 dents have had to drop out of school and seek employ-
24 ment since their families are not receiving any sup-
25 port for them. Since the unemployment rate is so
26 high among youth, many have no means of support and
27 must in fact continue to live with their families, in
28 effect lessening the Aid to Families with Dependent
29 Children amounts available for their younger sib-
30 lings.

31 This bill recognizes that driving students out of
32 school, away from home and prematurely into a labor
33 force for which they are ill prepared is poor public
34 policy and in the long run more expensive for the
35 State.

36 The bill provides a state-funded supplement to
37 the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program
38 to provide assistance to these students.

39 1219020783