

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 464

6  
7 S.P. 172

In Senate, February 7, 1985

8 Submitted by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services  
pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

9 Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and  
ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Andrews of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Clark of Cumberland, Senator Brown of  
Washington and Representative Connolly of Portland.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT Relating to Instruction in American  
18 Sign Language in Public Schools and  
19 Institutions of Higher Education.  
20

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

23 20-A MRSA §4726, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859,  
24 Pt. C, §§5 & 7, is amended by adding at the end a new  
25 paragraph to read:

26 A student is entitled to count credit received  
27 for a course in American sign language toward satis-  
28 faction of a foreign language requirement. If an ad-  
29 ministrative unit offers a course in American sign  
30 language, in addition to the 2-year sequence in a  
31 foreign language required by this section, the course  
32 will be recognized as a 2nd foreign language offer-  
33 ing.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 American sign language is recognized as a lan-  
3 guage and may be taught in public schools in educa-  
4 tional programs for both hearing and deaf students.  
5 This bill recognizes American sign language as being  
6 the equivalent of a foreign language for the purpose  
7 of fulfilling a student's graduation requirement. It  
8 also states that American sign language may be con-  
9 sidered as a 2nd foreign language offering by an ad-  
10 ministrative unit.

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