

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 1030

8 H.P. 720

House of Representatives, March 13, 1985

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

11 On Motion of Representative Brown of Gorham, referred to the
Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Brown of Gorham.

12 Cosponsored by Representative Crouse of Caribou, Senator Brown of
Washington and Representative Matthews of Caribou.

13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 AN ACT to Amend the Effective Dates of
19 Various Parts of the Education Reforms
20 Enacted in September 1984.
21

22 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
23 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
24 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

25 Whereas, there is a need for the immediate plan-
26 ning and adoption of rules for the implementation of
27 the new school approval requirements which take ef-
28 fect August 1, 1985, the authority to adopt the rules
29 does not become effective until August 1, 1985; and

30 Whereas, students graduating in June of 1989 from
31 secondary schools must meet new secondary school
32 graduation requirements which do not take effect un-
33 til August 1, 1988; and

1 Whereas, school administrative units must adopt
2 their budgets for fiscal year 1986 in accordance with
3 the School Finance Act of 1985, but lack the authori-
4 ty to do so because the School Finance Act of 1985
5 does not become effective until July 1, 1985; and

6 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
7 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
8 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
9 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
10 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore,

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

14 Sec. 1. PL 1983, c. 859, Part A, §25 is repealed
15 and the following enacted in its place:

16 Sec. 25. Effective date. This Part is effective
17 immediately, although schools will not have to comply
18 with these standards until August 1, 1985. The com-
19 missioner may grant up to an additional 2 years for
20 compliance to those school administrative units for
21 which he finds a financial hardship.

22 Sec. 2. PL 1983, c. 859, Part C, §7, first ¶ is
23 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

24 Sec. 7. Effective date. This Part shall take
25 effect immediately, although students who graduate
26 prior to August 1, 1988, will not have to meet the
27 graduation requirements established in this Part.
28 The commissioner may grant up to 2 additional years
29 beyond August 1, 1988, for compliance to those school
30 administrative units for which the commissioner
31 finds:

32 Sec. 3. PL 1983, c. 859, Part G, §4 is repealed
33 and the following enacted in its place:

34 Sec. 4. Effective date. Section 1 shall take
35 effect July 1, 1985. Section 2 shall take effect im-
36 mediately for the purpose of preparing reports and
37 budgets and assessing taxes for the school fiscal
38 year beginning July 1, 1985. To the extent that

1 there is any conflict between the Maine Revised
2 Statutes, Title 20-A, chapters 605 and 606, the con-
3 flict shall be resolved in favor of chapter 605 until
4 it is repealed on July 1, 1985.

5 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency
6 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect
7 when approved.

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

9 Section 1 of this bill authorizes the department
10 to take steps immediately to adopt rules regarding
11 school approval standards. This allows school admin-
12 istrative units to be given additional lead time in
13 preparing to meet the new standards for school ap-
14 proval which takes effect August 1, 1985.

15 Section 2 clarifies that the new graduation re-
16 quirements from a secondary school applies to stu-
17 dents who graduate starting in the spring of 1989.
18 It authorizes the commissioner to adopt the necessary
19 rules governing graduation requirements. It also
20 clarifies that schools will have to take steps to as-
21 sure that students entering the 9th grade in the fall
22 of 1985 will be on track to meet the graduation re-
23 quirements which will be required of all students
24 graduating in the spring of 1989.

25 Section 3 authorizes school administrative units
26 to adopt their budgets for the school year starting
27 on July 1, 1985, in accordance with the School Fi-
28 nance Act of 1985.

29 All of these changes are essential to provide
30 sufficient lead time for school administrative units
31 and the State to meet their duties and responsibili-
32 ties mandated by the education reform bill passed by
33 the Legislature in September of 1984.

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