

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1495

6  
7 S.P. 567

In Senate, May 9, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

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

10 Presented by Senator Andrews of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator Hichens of York, Representative O'Gara of Westbrook and Representative Crouse of Caribou.

11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Provide for Continued Educational  
18 Opportunities for Disabled Students.  
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted  
23 by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

24 B. Has not reached 20 years of age at the start  
25 of the school year. Students who have not  
26 reached the age of 25 and are otherwise eligible  
27 for services under this subpart, but who have not  
28 received services for a period of time because a  
29 physician or psychiatrist attending the student  
30 has determined that the provision of special edu-  
31 cational or supportive services may be harmful to  
32 the student's condition, shall be eligible for an  
33 additional period of service beyond the year in  
34 which the student turns 20 years of age, equal to  
35 the period of time the student was determined to  
36 be unable to receive special educational or sup-  
37 portive services; and

1           Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §7202, sub-§10 is enacted to  
2 read:

3           10. Final diagnosis and evaluation before leav-  
4 ing school. Provide an educational evaluation and  
5 diagnosis in the semester preceding an exceptional  
6 student's graduation or becoming the age ineligible  
7 for school under section 7001, subsection 1, para-  
8 graph B.

9           A. This diagnosis and evaluation shall assess  
10 the students short-term and long-term needs for  
11 academic, vocational and life skill training and  
12 support.

13           B. The school unit shall invite other state and  
14 local resources to be involved in the process of  
15 determining the students' needs and in developing  
16 recommendations as to how these needs might be  
17 met by existing agencies.

18           C. For students who are graduating, but still  
19 under the age limit specified in section 7001,  
20 subsection 1, paragraph B, and who have educa-  
21 tional, vocational or life skill training needs  
22 which could be met by existing school programs, a  
23 school unit may enroll these students in programs  
24 where space is available and school units may in-  
25 clude the cost for these students on a prorated  
26 basis under chapter 606.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2           This bill allows students, who have been unable  
3 to receive special educational services because of  
4 the seriousness of their medical or psychiatric in-  
5 jury or problem, to extend the period under which  
6 they are eligible for special education services.  
7 The period of extension would be equal to the period  
8 they were incapacitated. The bill requires school  
9 units to conduct a pupil evaluation team meeting on  
10 all special education students who are about to grad-  
11 uate or leave school because they became 20 years of  
12 age in that school year and develop a plan to link  
13 these students with other state and local resources.  
14 The bill also allows schools to enroll special needs  
15 students who have graduated, but who are age eligible  
16 and to include the prorated costs for these students  
17 under the School Finance Act.

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