

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

NO. 987

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H.P. 736 House of Representatives, March 30, 1987  
Reported by Representative CROWLEY from the Joint Select  
Committee on Economic Development pursuant to Resolves 1985,  
chapters 45 and 53.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Economic  
Development suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

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1                   **Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of**  
2                   **Educational and Cultural Services to**  
3                   **Develop a Plan to Improve the State's**  
4                   **Adult Education Program to More**  
5                   **Adequately Address the Problems of**  
6                   **Illiteracy and High School**  
7                   **Completion.**  
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9                   **Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves**  
10                  of the Legislature do not become effective until 90  
11                  days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;  
12                  and

13                  Whereas, the Joint Select Committee on Economic  
14                  Development has found that the State and the Depart-  
15                  ment of Educational and Cultural Services have not  
16                  adequately addressed the problems of illiteracy and  
17                  high school completion in the State; and

1           Whereas, there are 238,000 adults in the State  
2 lacking a high school diploma and one in 5 Maine  
3 adults is functionally illiterate; and

4           Whereas, basic educational skills will become  
5 even more important as the nature of employment  
6 changes with the changes in the economy demanding  
7 more flexibility and adaptability within the work  
8 force; and

9           Whereas, the State's financial support for adult  
10 education programs and the present subsidy formula is  
11 inadequate to address the basic education needs of  
12 Maine's adults; and

13           Whereas, employees in the State are becoming in-  
14 creasingly frustrated by an inability to locate and  
15 attract employees with adequate education and train-  
16 ing, hindering economic growth; and

17           Whereas, the Joint Select Committee would like to  
18 see a plan developed to address the needs of the  
19 adult community prior to adjournment of the First  
20 Regular Session of the 113th Legislature; and

21           Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,  
22 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of  
23 the Constitution of Maine and require the following  
24 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-  
25 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
26 therefore, be it

27           Report of the Commissioner of Educational and  
28 Cultural Services. Resolved: That the Commissioner  
29 of Educational and Cultural Services report to the  
30 Joint Standing Committee on Economic Development and  
31 the Joint Standing Committee on Education prior to  
32 May 1, 1987, with a plan to implement the recommenda-  
33 tion of the Joint Select Committee on Economic Devel-  
34 opment concerning adult education; and be it further

35           Guidelines for plan. Resolved: That the plan  
36 shall be designed to accomplish, at a minimum, the  
37 following objectives:

38           1. Requiring that all local school units offer  
39 directly or by contract with another unit an adult

1 basic education program that meets minimum curriculum  
2 standards prescribed by the Department of Educational  
3 and Cultural Services for basic literacy and high  
4 school completion courses:

5 A. The department shall prepare and implement  
6 these standards; and

7 2. Increasing state support for adult education  
8 to achieve the following results:

9 A. Providing all adults access to a free public  
10 education through grade 12;

11 B. Subsidizing 75% of the first year cost to lo-  
12 cal school units in initiating new and expanded  
13 programs for basic literacy and high school com-  
14 pletion and allow state participation in the  
15 first year to be counted 100% toward the local  
16 school units subsidy claim for future years;

17 C. Funding the state subsidy for adult basic ed-  
18 ucation in sufficient amount to match all local  
19 effort;

20 D. Funding 100% of the costs of textbooks re-  
21 quired for basic literacy and high school comple-  
22 tion courses and 100% of general education diplo-  
23 ma testing fees;

24 E. Testing through pilot projects the use of on-  
25 site day care as an incentive for encouraging en-  
26 rollment. Determine the extent to which the  
27 availability of this service increases enroll-  
28 ment, determine the socioeconomic background of  
29 the persons benefited and determine the most ap-  
30 propriate means for providing this service; and

31 F. Providing sufficient General Fund support  
32 staff to support the adult basic education pro-  
33 gram within the department, including funding for  
34 positions lost as a result of federal funding  
35 cutbacks; and be it further

36 Report on pilot projects. Resolved: That the  
37 Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services  
38 shall report the results of the pilot projects imple-

1 mented as part of the plan to the Joint Standing Com-  
2 mittee on Education during the First Regular Session  
3 of the 114th Legislature.

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

7 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

8 This resolve, to carry out some of the recommen-  
9 dations of the Joint Select Committee on Economic De-  
10 velopment, will require the Commissioner of Educa-  
11 tional and Cultural Services to develop a plan to im-  
12 prove the State's adult education program to more ad-  
13 equately address the problems of illiteracy and high  
14 school completion and report to the Joint Standing  
15 Committees on Economic Development and Education pri-  
16 or to May 1, 1987.

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