

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
(New Draft of H.P. 726, L.D. 977)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1831

H.P. 1339 House of Representatives, June 12, 1987
Reported by Representative CROWLEY from the Committee on
Economic Development and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill submitted by the Joint Select Committee on
Economic Development pursuant to Resolves 1985, chapters 45
and 53.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of
2 Educational and Cultural Services to
3 Develop a Plan to Improve Elementary
4 and Secondary Curriculum to Better
5 Prepare Maine Students for the World
6 of Work.
7

8 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves
9 of the Legislature do not become effective until 90
10 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;
11 and

12 Whereas, despite all the positive steps taken to
13 improve and enhance the elementary and secondary cur-
14 riculum in the State, there is still a widespread
15 consensus among Maine employers that new entrants to

1 the work force have been poorly prepared for the
2 world of work both in terms of their educational
3 skills and career guidance; and

4 Whereas, based on information gathered through
5 the Maine Education Assessment Program of 11th grad-
6 ers, Maine secondary students are not receiving as
7 much in-school assistance as they need. Secondary
8 school teachers felt only somewhat or inadequately
9 prepared to relate their subject areas to the world
10 of work and too many teachers believed it was not
11 their responsibility to be involved in formalized
12 career-related activities; and

13 Whereas, any delay in addressing these issues
14 will have far-reaching economic effect well into the
15 future and will be a great disservice to many of
16 Maine's youth; and

17 Whereas, the Joint Select Committee on Economic
18 Development would like to have a plan to address
19 these issues implemented before the adjournment of
20 the First Regular Session of the 113th Legislature;
21 and

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

28 **Commissioner's plan. Resolved:** That the Commis-
29 sioner of Educational and Cultural Services shall
30 prepare a plan to improve the ability of the elemen-
31 tary and secondary public education system to ade-
32 quately prepare students for the transition to work
33 and the career decisions and changes they will face
34 through the remainder of their lives; and be it fur-
35 ther

36 **Report to the State Board of Educa-**
37 **tion. Resolved:** That the plan shall be presented to
38 the State Board of Education at its monthly meeting
39 in January 1988; and be it further

1 Guidelines for plan. Resolved: That the commis-
2 sioner's plan shall address, but not be limited to,
3 the following objectives:

4 1. Increasing each child's knowledge of the work
5 environment, career options and their own skills and
6 interests:

7 A. Increasing the emphasis on career education,
8 planning and guidance and beginning career educa-
9 tion earlier in each child's educational program
10 and formally involve regular classroom teachers
11 in the process; and

12 B. Fostering better communications between
13 schools and business;

14 2. Encouraging teachers to explore the world of
15 work themselves through such programs as the
16 "Educator-in-Residence" program, initiated by Maine
17 Savings Bank to provide educators with the opportuni-
18 ty to learn about current business practices. This
19 program was replicated and expanded by the Maine De-
20 velopment Foundation;

21 3. Recommending that the State Board of Educa-
22 tion shall encourage schools to address or require
23 the following preemployment competency areas:

24 A. Career decision making which includes
25 self-awareness, career awareness, labor market
26 information and career choice;

27 B. Life-work management which includes managing
28 personal responsibility and problem solving and
29 coping;

30 C. Job getting which includes job seeking, re-
31 sumes and applications, contact skills and
32 interviewing; and

33 D. Work maturity which includes dependability,
34 reliability, communication skills, personal rela-
35 tions, initiative, productivity and worker rights
36 in their comprehensive career education curricu-
37 la;

1 4. Upgrading vocational education programs in
2 conjunction with improved career guidance and educa-
3 tion to more effectively target education programs to
4 individual needs and chosen career paths.

5 A. The department shall phase in alternatives to
6 the "general" high school curricula in recogni-
7 tion of the need to better prepare students for
8 the world of work or continued education; and

9 5. Encouraging the use of competency-based eval-
10 uation systems, particularly for vocational education
11 programs. These types of systems are designed to
12 provide a better measure of skills developed by a
13 student and are better measures of the effectiveness
14 of educational programs. The Department of Educa-
15 tional and Cultural Services shall increase its
16 present efforts in this area; and be it further

17 Report to Legislature. Resolved: That the com-
18 missioner report prior to February 1, 1988, to the
19 Joint Standing Committee on Economic Development and
20 the Joint Standing Committee on Education. The re-
21 port shall include the plan submitted to the State
22 Board of Education and an account of the board's ac-
23 tions related to the plan.

24 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited
25 in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when
26 approved.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This new draft, to carry out some of the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Economic Development, will require the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services to develop a plan designed to improve elementary and secondary curriculum to better prepare Maine students for the world of work and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Economic Development and the Joint Standing Committee on Education prior to February 1, 1988.

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