

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 1145

H.P. 799

House of Representatives, March 18, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

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**An Act to Provide a Vocational Planning Initiative for Secondary School Students.**

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

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4       Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5001-A, sub-§2, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 1989, c. 415, §13, is amended to read:

6           B. A person who has:

8               (1) Reached the age of 15 years or completed the 9th grade;

10              (2) Permission to leave school from that person's parent;

12              (3) Been approved by the principal for a suitable program of work and study or training;

14              (4) Permission to leave school from the school board or its designee; and

16              (5) Agreed in writing with that person's parent and the school board or its designee to meet annually until that person's 17th birthday to review that person's educational needs. When the request to be excused from school has been denied pursuant to this paragraph, the student's parent may appeal to the commissioner; and

18              (6) Completed an existing vocational education program offered by a vocational center or vocational region, or completed a vocational options curriculum offered by a vocational center or vocational region.

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32       Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8305, sub-§3, ¶¶B and C, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, are amended to read:

34           B. Offer programs to students at grades 11 and 12; and

36           C. Offer programs to students below grade 11, if approved by the commissioner; and

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40       Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §8305, sub-§3, ¶D is enacted to read:

42       D. Offer a vocational options curriculum to a student 15 years of age or older who plans to leave school. The curriculum must consist of an intensive 2-month, full-time program that includes instruction in job and life skills, including resume and job application training, keyboarding, basic applied math and reading skills and courses examining the vocational options available in the local vocational center or vocational region school. The student must complete and file with the school board a vocational planning statement that includes the student's vocational

2 plans and how they are to be implemented. Vocational center  
4 and vocational region staff shall design the vocational  
6 options curriculum in accordance with guidelines developed  
8 through consultation with the State Board of Education. Any  
10 vocational options courses designed as a result of this  
12 paragraph must replace courses that local school officials  
14 determine are ineffective, poorly enrolled or duplicative of  
16 existing secondary or postsecondary vocational education  
18 courses.

## 12 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 This bill establishes a vocational options curriculum to be  
16 designed by local vocational education staff in accordance with  
18 guidelines developed in consultation with the State Board of  
20 Education. The initiative attempts to refocus the educational  
22 mission of vocational centers and regions by including programs  
24 designed for at-risk and general track students. The curriculum  
26 will assist a student who contemplates dropping out in examining  
28 vocational career options offered within the local vocational  
center or region. The curriculum will also assist a student who  
decides to drop out in planning for and executing a plan for  
vocational employment. In addition to completing courses in life  
and work skills, each student will submit to the local school  
board a vocational planning statement that outlines the student's  
vocational plans.