

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M. D. S.

L.D. 2132

(Filing No. S- 539)

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 828, L.D. 2132, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning High School Equivalency Certificates"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §257, as amended by PL 1989, c. 525, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§257. High school equivalency diplomas

1. Issuance of diploma. The commissioner shall issue a high school equivalency diploma to a person who:

A. Is at least 18 years of age, if that person:

(1) Has completed a formal training program approved by the commissioner; and

(2) Has demonstrated, through procedures prescribed by the commissioner, attainment of a general educational development comparable to that of a secondary school graduate; or

B. Is 17 years of age, if that person:

(1) Has not been in attendance for one year or more at a public school or a private school approved by the department pursuant to chapter 117, or has documented an immediate need for a high school equivalency diploma to the superintendent of schools for the school

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

2 administrative unit in which that person resides, and  
3 has received written approval for the issuance of a  
4 high school equivalency diploma from the superintendent;

5 (2) Has completed a formal training program approved  
6 by the commissioner; and

7 (3) Has demonstrated, through procedures prescribed by  
8 the commissioner, attainment of a general educational  
9 development comparable to that of a secondary school  
10 graduate.

11 The commissioner shall issue a diploma authorized by this  
12 subsection upon compliance with the requirements of this  
13 subsection or as soon thereafter as possible.

14 2. Equivalency diploma status. High school equivalency  
15 diplomas have the legal status of high school diplomas.

16 3. Fees. A fee may not be charged for the issuance of any  
17 high school equivalency diploma to residents of the State.

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24 **FISCAL NOTE**

25 This bill may result in future General Fund revenues from  
26 fees charged to out-of-state applicants for high school  
27 equivalency diplomas. No fee is currently assessed.'

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30 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

31 The original bill changed the name of "high school  
32 equivalency certificates" to "high school equivalency diplomas"  
33 to be consistent with federal laws. This amendment retains that  
34 change, restructures the statute to clarify the requirements for  
35 granting a diploma to persons who are 17 or 18 years of age,  
36 removes the Maine residency requirement for eligibility, permits  
37 assessment of a fee to out-of-state applicants and adds a fiscal  
38 note.  
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Reported by Senator Estes for the Committee on Education.  
Reproduced and Distributed Pursuant to Senate Rule 12.  
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