

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1412

S.P. 506

In Senate, April 23, 2013

**An Act To Create an Educational Collaborative To Implement a
Program That Enables Career and Technical Education Students
To Earn College Credits while Attending High School**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Brooksville and
Senators: BURNS of Washington, CAIN of Penobscot, COLLINS of York, KATZ of Kennebec,
MILLETT of Cumberland, PATRICK of Oxford, THIBODEAU of Waldo, THOMAS of Somerset,
WOODBURY of Cumberland, Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, DOAK of Columbia Falls,
FREDETTE of Newport, GRANT of Gardiner, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, JOHNSON of Greenville,
MAKER of Calais, MALABY of Hancock, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCLELLAN of Raymond,
MORRISON of South Portland, POULIOT of Augusta, TURNER of Burlington, WILLETTE of
Mapleton.

1 **§6971. Definitions**

2 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms
3 have the following meanings.

4 **1. Collaborative.** "Collaborative" means a dual enrollment career and technical
5 education collaborative formed pursuant to this chapter to provide a cohort-based
6 learning pathway for career and technical education students that provides those students
7 with the opportunity to take postsecondary education courses and earn credits toward an
8 associate degree while participating in a career and technical education program that
9 integrates secondary education and postsecondary education courses.

10 **2. Collaborative agreement.** "Collaborative agreement" means an agreement
11 between a secondary school, a career and technical education program and one or more
12 public postsecondary education institutions in the State to form a collaborative that
13 articulates a credit transfer agreement between the publicly supported educational
14 institutions and that specifies each institution's responsibility for and cost of the delivery
15 of specified secondary and postsecondary educational functions and support services over
16 a 3-year period for a cohort-based program that provides secondary school students with
17 the opportunity to take postsecondary education courses and earn credits toward an
18 associate degree while participating in a career and technical education program that
19 integrates secondary education and postsecondary education courses.

20 **3. Collaborative board.** "Collaborative board" means the governing body
21 composed of representatives of the publicly supported educational institutions with the
22 powers and duties set forth in this chapter to form a dual enrollment career and technical
23 education program.

24 **4. Dual enrollment career and technical education program.** "Dual enrollment
25 career and technical education program" means a nonduplicative learning pathway for a
26 specific career and technical education program that provides secondary school students
27 with the opportunity to take postsecondary education courses and earn credits toward an
28 associate degree while participating in a career and technical education program that:

29 A. Provides a cohort-based experience for secondary school students to acquire
30 technical skills and proficiencies, earn concurrent credits toward a high school
31 diploma and a postsecondary education degree through dual enrollment in integrated
32 secondary and postsecondary education courses over a 3-year period that:

33 (1) Begins with the student's junior year in secondary school;

34 (2) Includes up to 3 years of summer career academies; and

35 (3) Concludes at the end of summer following the student's senior year in
36 secondary school; and

37 B. Includes individual learning plans, academic and career assessment, college and
38 career advising, career exploration and job-shadowing opportunities matched to
39 achieve the student's individual academic and career goals.

1 **5. Publicly supported educational institution.** "Publicly supported educational
2 institution" means a publicly supported secondary school, a career and technical
3 education program and a public postsecondary education institution in the State.

4 **§6972. Dual enrollment career and technical education program**

5 Representatives of the governing bodies of publicly supported educational institutions
6 may file an application to the commissioner for the purpose of entering into a
7 collaborative agreement. A collaborative is governed by a collaborative board formed
8 and operating in accordance with this chapter. The participation of publicly supported
9 educational institutions in any of the specified educational functions or support services
10 included in the collaborative agreement is voluntary. A collaborative board may
11 designate personnel of the publicly supported educational institutions or service providers
12 to provide the specified educational functions or support services included in the
13 collaborative agreement. The collaborative board must include one representative from
14 each publicly supported educational institution participating in the collaborative. The
15 application for the collaborative must designate the lead publicly supported educational
16 institution for the collaborative. The chief academic officer or designee of the lead
17 publicly supported educational institution shall serve as a nonvoting, ex officio member
18 of the collaborative board and shall administer the collaborative agreement and serve as
19 fiscal agent for the collaborative board.

20 **§6973. Application; approval; ratification**

21 **1. Application.** An application under section 6972 for a collaborative must be in a
22 form and contain such information as required by the commissioner, including, but not
23 limited to:

24 A. The identification of the publicly supported educational institutions that are
25 applying to form the collaborative;

26 B. The identification of the lead publicly supported educational institution;

27 C. The specified educational functions and support services to be provided by the
28 collaborative, including the identification of the publicly supported educational
29 institution that will participate in each specified educational function or support
30 service and the number of students or staff to be served in each publicly supported
31 educational institution that is participating in each specified educational function or
32 support service to be carried out by the collaborative;

33 D. The duration of the collaborative agreement;

34 E. The cost estimate or operational budget for the specified educational functions or
35 support services to be carried out;

36 F. The method of providing the specified educational functions or support services
37 and the designation of publicly supported educational institution personnel or service
38 providers who will provide the specified educational functions or support services;
39 and

40 G. The method of sharing costs among the publicly supported educational
41 institutions.

1 **2. Approval.** If the commissioner finds that an application under section 6972
2 contains the information required to be submitted pursuant to subsection 1, the
3 commissioner shall notify each publicly supported educational institution participating in
4 the collaborative agreement that, pending ratification as set forth in subsection 3, the
5 collaborative is approved. The commissioner shall keep a register of collaboratives that
6 have been approved and ratified pursuant to this chapter.

7 **3. Governing body ratification.** If the commissioner approves an application for a
8 collaborative pursuant to subsection 2, the collaborative must be ratified by a majority of
9 the members of the governing body of each publicly supported educational institution
10 involved in the collaborative before the collaborative becomes effective.

11 **§6974. Collaborative agreement**

12 **1. Duration of collaborative agreement.** A collaborative agreement that has been
13 ratified pursuant to section 6973 is valid for the fiscal year beginning July 1st following
14 the ratification vote and ends June 30th of the calendar year that coincides with the
15 expiration date included in the collaborative agreement.

16 **2. Renewal of collaborative.** A collaborative may be renewed only upon
17 ratification by a majority of the members of the governing body of each publicly
18 supported educational institution involved in the collaborative in accordance with this
19 chapter.

20 **§6975. Student eligibility**

21 A secondary school student is eligible to participate in secondary and postsecondary
22 courses offered by a collaborative formed pursuant to this chapter if the following
23 requirements are satisfied:

24 **1. Availability.** The collaborative has space available for the secondary school
25 student;

26 **2. Academic standing.** The student is maintaining a minimum secondary school
27 grade point average of at least 2.0 on a scale of 4.0, or the equivalent as determined by
28 the collaborative board, except that the collaborative board may waive the minimum
29 grade point average in the case of a student demonstrating special circumstances and a
30 substantial likelihood of improvement;

31 **3. Application; prerequisites.** The collaborative board has determined that the
32 student has satisfactorily completed the application for admission to the program and any
33 prerequisite courses;

34 **4. School approval.** The secondary school approves;

35 **5. Parental approval.** The student's parent or guardian approves; and

36 **6. Recommendation.** The student has received a recommendation to participate in
37 the dual enrollment career and technical education program from one of the

1 administrators at the student's secondary school or career and technical education
2 program and from one of the student's secondary school teachers.

3 **§6976. Credits**

4 **1. High school credit.** A school administrative unit shall grant academic credit
5 toward a high school diploma to a student who successfully completes a secondary course
6 under this chapter.

7 **2. Postsecondary credit.** A public postsecondary education institution in the State
8 shall grant full credit to any secondary student who successfully completes a
9 postsecondary course under this chapter. The course must apply to graduation
10 requirements at the public postsecondary education institution at which it was taken or be
11 transferable to another public postsecondary education institution in the State on an equal
12 basis with a course taken by any other student at the public postsecondary education
13 institution at which it was taken.

14 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §8306-B, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 679, §10, is
15 amended to read:

16 **4. Learning pathways and articulation agreements with postsecondary**
17 **institutions; collaborative agreements.** To the greatest extent possible, a career and
18 technical education program offered at a center or region must provide students the
19 opportunity to take advantage of any applicable learning pathways, including learning
20 pathways set forth in an articulation agreement with a postsecondary institution or in a
21 collaborative agreement with publicly supported secondary and postsecondary
22 educational institutions that form a dual enrollment career and technical education
23 program pursuant to chapter 229.

24 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
25 legislation takes effect when approved.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill establishes a collaborative of publicly supported educational institutions in
28 the State, including career and technical education programs, a public secondary school, a
29 private secondary school approved for the receipt of public funds under the Maine
30 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 117, subchapter 2 that enrolls 60% or more publicly
31 funded students and public postsecondary institutions in the State, to implement a
32 program that enables career and technical education students to earn college credits while
33 attending high school. The program runs for 3 years, beginning with students in their
34 junior year in high school, enabling students to earn an associate degree following one
35 year of postsecondary education and saving students time and money in obtaining that
36 degree.

37 The educational collaborative will develop and implement a cohort-based learning
38 pathway that enables career and technical education students to earn academic credits
39 during their junior and senior years of high school that are equivalent to about a year of
40 college. The program includes opportunities for students to attend up to 3 summer career

1 academies held at an area business, a career and technical education program or a public
2 postsecondary education institution in the State. The students will then move into a
3 degree program at a community college or university campus and graduate with an
4 associate degree within one year after receiving their high school diplomas.