

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 338

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H.P. 232

House of Representatives, February 10, 2015

### **An Act To Reduce Remedial Course Requirements at Maine Community Colleges**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative STEARNS of Guilford.  
Cosponsored by Senator DILL of Penobscot and  
Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, MAKER of  
Calais, McCLELLAN of Raymond, Senator: EDGECOMB of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6202, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

3 **3. Preparatory education testing.** The department in consultation with the state  
4 board shall establish a statewide assessment program to measure and evaluate the  
5 academic achievements of students in grade 10 for purposes of determining preparedness  
6 for postsecondary education. This assessment applies to all students attending public  
7 secondary schools, public charter schools, as defined in section 2401, subsection 9, and  
8 private schools approved for tuition that enroll at least 60% publicly funded students, as  
9 determined by the previous school year's October and April average enrollment. Costs  
10 relating to the assessment program established under this subsection must be paid by the  
11 department; however, the department shall ensure that the assessment is available to a  
12 student to retake, at the student's own expense, prior to June 1st of every year.

13 A. The assessment program must be designed to provide data in the areas of reading  
14 comprehension, writing and mathematics, at a minimum, and must be sufficient to  
15 allow the Maine Community College System to determine whether a student would  
16 be required to enroll in remedial coursework in those areas in the Maine Community  
17 College System.

18 B. If a student does not achieve at least the score in a specific subject area tested, as  
19 determined under section 12709, subsection 10-A, and is accepted at and enrolls in a  
20 college within the Maine Community College System, the college shall pay the costs  
21 of all remedial coursework the student may be required to complete in that specific  
22 subject area in pursuit of the student's course of study declared at matriculation.

23 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12709, sub-§10-A** is enacted to read:

24 **10-A. Admissions.** To determine admissions criteria for each of the colleges within  
25 the system, including annually determining the scores a student who has completed the  
26 assessment program established under section 6202, subsection 3 must achieve in each of  
27 the specific subject areas tested under section 6202, subsection 3, to conclusively indicate  
28 that the student is qualified for college-level work in the system and will not need to  
29 enroll in remedial coursework while attending a college within the system;

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill requires that all students in grade 10 in a public school, public charter school  
32 or private school approved for tuition that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students  
33 complete an academic achievement assessment established by the Department of  
34 Education and the State Board of Education. The President of the Maine Community  
35 College System must determine the scores on the assessment that conclusively indicate  
36 that a student will not need to enroll in remedial coursework while attending a college  
37 within the system. If a student whose score indicates that remedial coursework is  
38 required is accepted at and enrolls in a college within the system, the college must pay the  
39 costs of any remedial coursework the student may need to complete in the course of study  
40 declared at matriculation.