

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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7 OF 8
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DIGITAL CONTENT LIBRARY FOR EDUCATION

§19301. Digital content library

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3 **1. Digital content library established.** The commissioner shall establish a digital
4 content library to house a collection of high-quality digital educational content and
5 learning resources aligned with the State's educational initiatives, delivered electronically
6 by school administrative units, private schools, public and private postsecondary
7 institutions and nonprofit or for-profit content providers for sharing with other school
8 administrative units, private schools, public and private postsecondary institutions and
9 individuals.

10 **2. Content.** Content included in the digital content library established pursuant to
11 subsection 1 must further the State's educational initiatives, including learning through
12 technology, proficiency-based diploma standards, college and career readiness and
13 student achievement in the system of standards and assessment established under chapter
14 222.

15 **3. Administration.** The commissioner shall establish administrative specifications
16 for the digital content library established pursuant to subsection 1, including:

17 A. Specifications and criteria in at least the following areas regarding digital
18 educational content and learning resources to be included in the digital content
19 library:

20 (1) Alignment with the system of learning results established under section 6209;

21 (2) Development of greater student depth of knowledge or complex reasoning;

22 (3) Integration of technology;

23 (4) Relevance to community involvement and employment in the State;

24 (5) Level of interest to students; and

25 (6) Quality of instruction;

26 B. A method for involving educators, educational organizations and institutions,
27 school administrative units, private schools, public and private postsecondary
28 institutions and nonprofit or for-profit content providers to create content for possible
29 inclusion in the digital content library;

30 C. A method for reviewing digital educational content and learning resources to
31 determine whether digital educational content and learning resources should be
32 included in the digital content library;

33 D. A method for curating digital educational content and learning resources included
34 in the digital content library to provide for continuous review of currency and
35 consistency with the specifications and criteria adopted under this section; and

36 E. Technical specifications in at least the following areas:

37 (1) Cataloguing available content, with information regarding each item of
38 digital educational content or learning resource that includes:

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- 1 (a) Identification of appropriate grade level;
- 2 (b) Subject area;
- 3 (c) Brief descriptions, including descriptions of the type of digital
- 4 educational content or learning resource;
- 5 (d) Links to the digital educational content or learning resource; and
- 6 (e) Number of instructional hours required to complete the digital
- 7 educational content or learning resource;
- 8 (2) A rating and recommendation system for students and educators to provide
- 9 feedback on digital educational content and learning resources included in the
- 10 digital content library;
- 11 (3) Tracking use of specific digital educational content or learning resources; and
- 12 (4) Accessibility of the digital content library from any device with Internet
- 13 connectivity.

14 **4. Review.** The commissioner may convene an advisory group consisting of, at a

15 minimum, a representative from the department, a public school educator from the State

16 and a representative from a statewide educational association or organization to review

17 and suggest modifications and updates to the digital content library established pursuant

18 to subsection 1. The commissioner shall review and may approve or modify the

19 recommendations of the advisory group regarding the requirements set forth in this

20 section.

21 **5. Training.** The commissioner may provide professional development and training

22 on the use of the digital content library.

23 **6. Power to contract.** The commissioner may enter into a contract with an entity to

24 implement any recommendations of the advisory group under subsection 4.

25 **7. Report.** The commissioner shall report annually by January 15th to the joint

26 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural

27 affairs regarding the digital content library established pursuant to subsection 1, and

28 specifically the items in this section.

29 **Sec. 2. Digital content library advisory group.** The Commissioner of

30 Education shall convene an advisory group to design the digital content library

31 established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 805. The advisory

32 group must include a representative from the Department of Education, a public school

33 educator in the State and a representative from a statewide educational association or

34 organization. The advisory group shall recommend to the commissioner methods for

35 fulfilling the requirements of Title 20-A, section 19301. In addition, the advisory group

36 shall:

- 37 1. Recommend a business model that allows for competitive exchange of digital
- 38 educational content and learning resources that maintains low costs for schools and
- 39 rewards authors when their digital educational content and learning resources are
- 40 accessed through the digital content library; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



Approved: 05/26/15 *MRC*

127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1230

LR 896(02)

An Act To Create a Digital Portal for Education

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-146)

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Education associated with working with the advisory group to develop the implementation plan and timeline for the establishment of the digital content library and with providing professional development and training on the use of the digital content library can be absorbed within the existing budgeted resources of the department. However, depending on the recommendations of the advisory group, the department may require General Fund appropriations to establish the library. If additional resources are needed, the Department of Education will submit a request in the next supplemental budget.