

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 356

H.P. 262

House of Representatives, February 2, 2017

An Act To Repeal Certain Requirements for Graduation from Secondary School

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 SAMPSON of Alfred.
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, GERRISH of Lebanon, HEAD of Bethel,
HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, MASON of Lisbon, O'CONNOR of Berwick, TUELL of East
Machias, TURNER of Burlington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4511, sub-§3, ¶J**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 489, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 J. The school demonstrates evidence of sufficient capacity through multiple
5 pathways as set out in section 4703 for students to reach proficiency in each of the
6 content areas of the system of learning results established under section 6209 ~~and in~~
7 ~~each of the guiding principles set forth in department rules governing implementation~~
8 ~~of the system of learning results established pursuant to section 6209.~~

9 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4722-A, sub-§1, ¶B-1**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 489, §2,
10 is amended to read:

11 B-1. Phase in the following diploma requirements from the 2020-2021 school year to
12 the 2024-2025 school year:

13 (1) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2020-2021, certify that the
14 student has demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content
15 areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and technology and social
16 studies;

17 (2) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2021-2022, certify that the
18 student has demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content
19 areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social
20 studies and at least one additional content area of the student's choice;

21 (3) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2022-2023, certify that the
22 student has demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content
23 areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social
24 studies and at least 2 additional content areas of the student's choice;

25 (4) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2023-2024, certify that the
26 student has demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content
27 areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social
28 studies and at least 3 additional content areas of the student's choice; and

29 (5) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2024-2025 and for each
30 subsequent graduating class, certify that the student has demonstrated proficiency
31 in meeting the state standards in all content areas.

32 For the purposes of this paragraph, "content areas" refers to the content areas of the
33 system of learning results established under section 6209; and

34 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4722-A, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 489, §2,
35 is repealed.

36 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4722-A, sub-§3, ¶B-2**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 489, §2,
37 is amended to read:

38 B-2. For the graduating class of 2020-2021 and each subsequent graduating class, a
39 student who has satisfactorily completed a state-approved career and technical

1 education program of study and either met 3rd-party-verified national or state
2 industry standards set forth in department rules established pursuant to section
3 8306-B or earned 6 credits in a dual enrollment career and technical education
4 program formed pursuant to chapter 229 from a regionally accredited institution of
5 higher education and who has successfully demonstrated proficiency in meeting state
6 standards in the content areas ~~and the guiding principles set forth in department rules~~
7 ~~governing implementation~~ of the system of learning results established pursuant to
8 section 6209, is eligible to receive a high school diploma from the secondary school
9 the student last attended. A student may be awarded a high school diploma from the
10 secondary school the student last attended in accordance with the phase-in of the
11 following diploma requirements for the graduating class of 2020-2021 to the
12 graduating class of 2023-2024:

13 (1) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2020-2021, the student has
14 demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content areas of
15 English language arts, mathematics and social studies;

16 (2) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2021-2022, the student has
17 demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content areas of
18 English language arts, mathematics, social studies and at least one additional
19 content area of the student's choosing;

20 (3) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2022-2023, the student has
21 demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content areas of
22 English language arts, mathematics, social studies and at least 2 additional
23 content areas of the student's choosing; and

24 (4) For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2023-2024 and in each
25 subsequent graduating class, the student has demonstrated proficiency in meeting
26 the state standards in the content areas of English language arts, mathematics,
27 social studies and at least 3 additional content areas of the student's choosing.

28 For the purposes of this paragraph, "content areas" refers to the content areas of the
29 system of learning results established under section 6209.

30 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §4722-A, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 489, §2, is
31 further amended to read:

32 **6. Implementation of proficiency-based diplomas and transcripts.** Beginning in
33 the 2016-2017 school year, the department shall annually collect and report data on the
34 progress of public schools and public charter schools towards the implementation of
35 proficiency-based diplomas and transcripts in relation to the ongoing transition plan
36 required pursuant to section 4502, subsection 1, including the number of students
37 graduating with proficiency-based diplomas, the number of students concluding their
38 high school careers proficient in each of the content areas of the system of learning
39 results established under section 6209 ~~and in each of the guiding principles set forth in~~
40 ~~department rules governing implementation of the system of learning results established~~
41 ~~pursuant to section 6209~~ and the number of students certified as ready for college and
42 careers. By January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, the department shall provide an
43 annual report of the data collected for the prior school year to the joint standing

1 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters, and the
2 department shall post the annual report on its publicly accessible website.

3 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§3-A, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 489, §5, is
4 amended to read:

5 A. Maintain student transcripts containing certification of proficiency for each
6 content area ~~and guiding principle~~ in the system of learning results pursuant to this
7 section in which the student has demonstrated proficiency;

8 **Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §6211**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 489, §7, is further
9 amended to read:

10 **§6211. Rulemaking**

11 The commissioner shall develop rules to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.
12 Rules adopted by the commissioner under this chapter must include guidelines and
13 protocols to strengthen the capacity of school administrative units to ensure sufficient
14 opportunity through multiple pathways for all students to achieve proficiency in meeting
15 the state standards ~~and guiding principles~~ under the system of learning results established
16 pursuant to section 6209. Rules adopted pursuant to this chapter are major substantive
17 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

18 **Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §6214, sub-§1, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 500, §1, is
19 amended to read:

20 B. Use measures of student proficiency in all content areas of the learning results ~~and~~
21 ~~the guiding principles~~ using data gathered under section 4722-A, subsection 5;

22 **SUMMARY**

23 Under current law, in order to award to a student a diploma indicating graduation
24 from secondary school, a school must certify that the student has demonstrated
25 proficiency in each of the guiding principles set forth in rules adopted by the Department
26 of Education. In accordance with rules adopted by the department, the guiding principles
27 are measured using rubrics that assess and grade a student's proficiencies in being a clear
28 and effective communicator, a self-directed and lifelong learner, a creative and practical
29 problem solver, a responsible and involved citizen and an integrative and informed
30 thinker. This bill repeals this requirement.