

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
129TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 740, L.D. 985, Bill, "An Act To Maintain High School Diploma Standards by Repealing Proficiency-based Diploma Standards"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Maintain High School Diploma Standards by Repealing Proficiency-based Diploma Standards and Adding the Equivalent in Standards Achievement'

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4722, as amended by PL 2017, c. 466, §§8 and 9, is further amended to read:

§4722. High school diploma standards

~~A secondary school shall provide a comprehensive program of instruction leading to a high school diploma as set out in section 4721. The commissioner shall develop rules for the transition between the requirements of this section and the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under section 6209.~~

**1. Minimum instructional requirements.** ~~A comprehensive program of instruction~~  
The instructional requirements leading to a high school diploma must include a minimum 4-year program that meets the curriculum requirements established by this chapter section and any other instructional requirements established by the commissioner and the school board.

**2. Required subjects.** Courses Instruction in the following subjects ~~shall~~ must be provided in separate or integrated study programs ~~to all, and~~ students ~~and required~~ must complete the following minimum requirements for a high school diploma:

- A. English--4 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;
- B. Social studies and history, including American history, government, civics and personal finance--2 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;
- C. Mathematics--2 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;

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1 D. Science, including at least one year of laboratory study--2 years or the equivalent  
2 in standards achievement; and

3 E. Fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics or drama--one year or the  
4 equivalent in standards achievement.

5 **2-A. Implementation of multiple pathways and opportunities.** Students may  
6 demonstrate achievement of the standards through multiple pathways ~~as set out under~~  
7 including those identified in section 4703 and multiple opportunities. Achievement may  
8 be demonstrated by evidence documented by course and learning experiences using  
9 multiple measures, such as, but not limited to, examinations, quizzes, portfolios,  
10 performances, exhibitions, projects and community service.

11 **2-B. Policy.** The following are the fundamental policies in the State's high school  
12 diploma standards:

13 A. To ensure that a diploma indicating graduation from a secondary school signifies  
14 that the graduate has completed the requirements described in this section and is  
15 ready to enter a postsecondary educational program or a career as a clear and  
16 effective communicator, a self-directed and lifelong learner, a creative and practical  
17 problem solver, a responsible and involved citizen and an informed and integrative  
18 thinker;

19 B. To recognize that in order to help students to reach the goal described in  
20 paragraph A, school administrative units must align their instruction with the system  
21 of learning results established under section 6209; and

22 C. To encourage school administrative units to develop innovative multiple  
23 pathways that allow all students to learn and demonstrate their achievement through  
24 multiple means and measures pursuant to subsection 2-A.

25 **3. Satisfactory completion.** A diploma may be awarded to a secondary school  
26 ~~students~~ student who ~~have~~ has satisfactorily completed all diploma requirements in  
27 accordance with the academic standards of the school administrative unit and this ~~chapter~~  
28 section. All secondary school students must achieve the content standards of the  
29 parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established pursuant to  
30 section 6209. ~~Children~~ A child with ~~disabilities~~ a disability, as defined in section 7001,  
31 subsection 1-B, who ~~successfully meet the content standards of the parameters for~~  
32 ~~essential instruction and graduation~~ satisfies the local diploma requirements in ~~addition to~~  
33 ~~any other diploma requirements applicable to all secondary school students, as the~~  
34 manner specified by the ~~goals and objectives of their~~ the child's individualized education  
35 ~~plans, may plan must~~ be awarded a high school diploma. Career and technical students  
36 may, consistent with the approval of the commissioner and the local school board, satisfy  
37 the requirements of subsection 2 through separate or integrated study within the career  
38 and technical school curriculum, including through courses provided pursuant to section  
39 8402 or 8451-A.

40 **4. Exception.** A secondary school student who has satisfactorily completed the  
41 freshman year in an accredited degree-granting institution of higher education or a  
42 secondary school student who has satisfactorily completed the junior and senior years in a  
43 dual enrollment career and technical education program formed pursuant to chapter 229

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may be eligible to receive a high school diploma from the secondary school the student last attended, although the student may not meet the graduation requirements of this Title.

**5. Advanced study.** Nothing in this chapter may prevent the award of a diploma to a student who has completed all diploma requirements in fewer than 4 years of study.

**6. Exception for certain veterans.** A secondary school may award a high school diploma to a person who meets all of the following requirements. A diploma may be awarded posthumously.

A. The person or the person's family must apply to the secondary school for the diploma.

B. The person must either:

(1) Have attended the secondary school or attended a secondary school in the geographic area now served by the secondary school; or

(2) Currently reside in the geographic area served by the secondary school.

C. The person must have left secondary school:

(1) Before or during World War II to serve in the Armed Forces during World War II;

(2) Before or during the Korean Conflict to serve in the Armed Forces in the Korean Conflict;

(3) Before or during the Vietnam War to serve in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War era. For purposes of this subparagraph, "Vietnam War era" means the period beginning February 28, 1961 and ending May 7, 1975; or

(4) To serve in the Armed Forces during the period of wartime or peacetime after a period of wartime described in subparagraph (1), (2) or (3).

D. The person did not graduate or receive a high school diploma because of service in the Armed Forces.

E. The person received an honorable discharge or a certificate of honorable service from the Armed Forces.

For purposes of this subsection, "Armed Forces" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard; and the Merchant Marines only for the period of December 7, 1941 to August 16, 1945.

**7. Applicability of requirements.** This section applies to the granting of diplomas to secondary school students beginning January 1, 2019.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment adds to the bill provisions regarding the State's high school diploma standards.

R.O.F.S

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 740, L.D. 985

1           The amendment establishes as fundamental policies of the diploma standards that a  
2 diploma indicating graduation from a secondary school signifies that the graduate has  
3 completed high school diploma requirements and is ready to enter a postsecondary  
4 educational program or a career as a clear and effective communicator, a self-directed and  
5 lifelong learner, a creative and practical problem solver, a responsible and involved  
6 citizen and an informed and integrative thinker; that school administrative units must  
7 align their instruction with the system of learning results; and that school administrative  
8 units are encouraged to develop innovative multiple pathways that allow all students to  
9 learn and demonstrate their achievement through multiple means and measures.

10           The amendment also provides that instruction in the required subjects may be  
11 provided through the current year-based requirements or through the equivalent in  
12 standards achievement.

13           The amendment also requires that a child with a disability who satisfies the local  
14 diploma requirements in the manner specified by the child's individualized education plan  
15 must be awarded a high school diploma and provides that career and technical education  
16 students, consistent with the approval of the commissioner and the local school board,  
17 may satisfy instructional requirements through separate or integrated study within the  
18 career and technical education school curriculum.

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