

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1565

H.P. 1010

House of Representatives, April 11, 2023

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**Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Provide Grants to Expand  
Age Eligibility for Life Skills and Vocational Programs in Public  
Schools**

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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 MONTELL of Gardiner.  
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and  
Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield,  
DILL of Old Town, DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York,  
WORTH of Ellsworth.

1           **Sec. 1. Commissioner of Education to establish pilot program to provide**  
2 **grants to expand age eligibility for life skills and vocational programs.**

3 **Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Education shall establish a pilot program to award  
4 grants to expand age eligibility for life skills and vocational programs in public schools for  
5 a period of 2 years. The Commissioner of Education may accept donations from outside  
6 sources and state and federal funding to accomplish the purposes of this resolve.

7           **Sec. 2. Application. Resolved:** That a local education agency may submit an  
8 application for grant funds under the pilot program pursuant to section 1. The  
9 Commissioner of Education shall give priority to applicants that do not have career and  
10 technical education in middle schools and provide grants to schools that demonstrate the  
11 following goals:

- 12           1. Exposing students to vocations so that students can identify a vocational interest  
13 earlier in the students' academic careers;
- 14           2. Providing students with valuable life skills; and
- 15           3. Lowering the truancy rate and number of disciplinary infractions by increasing  
16 student engagement.

17           **Sec. 3. Use of funds. Resolved:** That a local education agency that receives a grant  
18 award during the pilot program under section 1 may use the funds only for expanding age  
19 eligibility for life skills and vocational programs.

20           **Sec. 4. Evaluation; annual submissions. Resolved:** That each local education  
21 agency that receives a grant under the pilot program under section 1 shall engage in  
22 evaluation activities, including interviews or surveys on the process and effect and  
23 outcomes of the pilot program, and annually for the duration of the grant submit to the  
24 Department of Education a report or other product that showcases learning achieved  
25 through the pilot program. The Department of Education annually shall compile the  
26 submissions and make them publicly available.

27           **Sec. 5. Fund established. Resolved:** That the Life Skills and Vocational Program  
28 Grant Pilot Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund under the Department of  
29 Education for the purpose of receiving money from state, federal and other sources,  
30 including donations from private citizens, corporations and entities for the purposes of this  
31 resolve. The department shall distribute any available money in the fund to support the  
32 purposes described in this resolve. Upon distribution of all the money, the fund is dissolved.

33           **Sec. 6. Report to Legislature. Resolved:** That, no later than December 4, 2024,  
34 the Commissioner of Education shall submit a report regarding the pilot program pursuant  
35 to this resolve and make recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the joint  
36 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural  
37 affairs. The joint standing committee may report out legislation on the subject matter of the  
38 report to the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

39           **Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following  
40 appropriations and allocations are made.

41 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**  
42 **Life Skills and Vocational Program Grant Pilot Program Fund N437**

1 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to expand age eligibility for life skills and vocational  
 2 programs in public schools.

3	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
4	All Other	\$100,000	\$0
5			
6	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$0

7 **Life Skills and Vocational Program Grant Pilot Program Fund N437**

8 Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures in the event funds to expand  
 9 age eligibility for life skills and vocational programs in public schools are received through  
 10 donations from public or private sources.

11	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
12	All Other	\$500	\$500
13			
14	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

15 **Life Skills and Vocational Program Grant Pilot Program Fund N437**

16 Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures in the event funds to expand  
 17 age eligibility for life skills and vocational programs in public schools are received from  
 18 federal sources.

19	<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
20	All Other	\$500	\$500
21			
22	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500

23  
 24 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**  
 25 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

26		<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
27	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
28	<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>
29	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>
30			
31	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$101,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This resolve directs the Commissioner of Education to create a pilot program to expand  
 34 age eligibility for life skills and vocational programs in public schools.