

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 2014 to July 16, 2015

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
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PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2015

chusetts, including the fifth subsection, more prominently available to educators and to the inquiring public.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 41

S.P. 440 - L.D. 1235

Resolve, To Strengthen Standards-based Diplomas

Sec. 1. Maine Proficiency Education Council created. Resolved: That the Maine Proficiency Education Council, referred to in this section as "the council," is created to make recommendations regarding implementation of the proficiency-based graduation requirements under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A to the Commissioner of Education and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

1. Members. The council consists of the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee and the following 14 members, appointed by the Commissioner of Education:

- A. A member of the State Board of Education, nominated by the state board;
- B. Four public school teachers, at least one of whom is a special education teacher, appointed from a list of names provided by the Maine Education Association;
- C. Two public school administrators, appointed from a list of names provided by the Maine Principals' Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association;
- D. Two members of school boards, appointed from a list of names provided by the Maine School Boards Association;
- E. One faculty member representing the University of Maine;
- F. Two members of the business community; and
- G. Two members of the general public with interest and experience in education.

The council must be cochaired by the Commissioner of Education and one other member elected by the council. The council may establish subcommittees and may appoint persons who are not members of the council to serve on the subcommittees as needed to conduct the council's work.

2. Duties. The council shall study and provide recommendations for implementing proficiency-based graduation requirements leading to a diploma consis-

tent with the requirements of Title 20-A, section 4722-A. The council shall:

- A. Fully investigate and understand the current status of standards-based educational systems and proficiency-based graduation requirements in all of Maine's public high schools;
- B. Review proficiency-based graduation requirements to ensure that the requirements protect the rights of all students, including but not limited to special education and English language learners, to receive a high school diploma;
- C. Outline the key concerns with the development and implementation of proficiency-based graduation requirements and provide solutions, where possible, for the challenges schools face in developing standards-based educational systems and implementing requirements for awarding proficiency-based diplomas;
- D. Recommend a 5-year plan for full implementation of proficiency-based graduation requirements across the State, including, but not limited to, the resources and support necessary to develop proficiency-based graduation requirements in all of the State's public high schools, professional development systems for educators, data systems to track student proficiency information and appropriate communication tools for parents and students;
- E. Recommend best practices for adoption and implementation of standards-based educational systems and proficiency-based graduation requirements based upon the current experiences of schools that meet the criteria for proficiency-based graduation and other research and data; and
- F. Recommend assessment practices other than standardized or other commercially available testing to assess student proficiency in academic areas.

3. Report. The Commissioner of Education shall submit a report regarding the work of the council to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2016. The report must include the council's recommendations regarding implementation of the requirements set forth in Title 20-A, section 4722-A and recommendations regarding the continuing work of the council.

4. Staff assistance; grant funding. The Department of Education shall provide staff assistance to the council. The department may seek and employ grant funds to provide additional assistance.

5. Council continuation. The council is authorized to continue meeting, if it so desires, 90 days after

adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 42

S.P. 546 - L.D. 1445

Resolve, Reauthorizing the Balance of the 2009 Bond Issue for an Offshore Wind Energy Demonstration Project

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Treasurer of State may not sell the remaining \$6,085,000 in bonds authorized but not yet issued from the \$26,500,000 offshore wind energy demonstration site and related manufacturing bond issue authorized by the voters in June 2010 unless the Legislature reauthorizes the issuance of those bonds; and

Whereas, the University of Maine requires this \$6,085,000 in bonds to complete construction of its offshore wind energy demonstration project; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period in order for the construction to be completed on schedule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Extension for issuing. Resolved: That, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14, the period for issuance of bonds or of bond anticipation notes authorized but unissued pursuant to Public Law 2009, chapter 414, as amended by Public Law 2009, chapter 645, and authorized by the voters in a statewide election held on June 8, 2010, in order to complete construction of the offshore wind energy demonstration site already under construction at the University of Maine, is further extended for a 5-year period.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective July 1, 2015.

CHAPTER 43

S.P. 98 - L.D. 260

Resolve, To Create a License Plate To Recognize the Centennial of the United States Navy Reserve

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the federal Naval Appropriations Act of 1916, dated March 3, 1915, established a United States Naval Reserve, and March 3, 2015 marks the centennial celebration of what is now called the United States Navy Reserve; and

Whereas, this legislation honors and recognizes this important anniversary and the men and women who serve and have served in the United States Navy Reserve; and

Whereas, the anniversary date of the United States Navy Reserve is prior to the effective date of nonemergency legislation; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Navy Reserve centennial plate. Resolved: That, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 454, the Secretary of State shall issue, at no cost to the Secretary of State, a reflectorized, commemorative, simulated registration plate in recognition and celebration of the centennial of the United States Navy Reserve on March 3, 2015. The Secretary of State shall design the plate in consultation with the United States Navy Reserve, and the plate must bear the date of its expiration, which is March 3, 2016. The United States Navy Reserve centennial commemorative plate may be displayed by covering, but not removing, the front registration plate on a motor vehicle, including a motor vehicle registered outside this State and operated within it, until March 3, 2016. A truck tractor as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 90 may not display the plate under this section; and be it further

Sec. 2. Administrative fee; distribution. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall develop a plan for the sale and distribution of the United States Navy Reserve centennial commemorative plate under section 1. The fee for the United States Navy Reserve centennial commemorative plate is \$15, which must be distributed as follows: