

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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A STUDY

conducted by the maine state board of education
bureau of vocational and adult education

TO DETERMINE

the need and feasibility of expanding secondary and
adult vocational education in selected regions of the
state

presented to

the 105th legislature - special session - state of
maine - by the state board of education - january
14, 1972

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A study conducted by
Maine State Department of Education
Bureau of Vocational and Adult Education

to determine the need and feasibility of expanding secondary and
adult vocational education in selected regions of the state

Report to the 105th Legislature
Special Session
State of Maine
by
The State Board of Education
Jan. 14, 1972

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New England Resource Center for Occupational Education
Maine Advisory Council on Vocational Education

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Technical and vocational education programs must help to eliminate unemployment problems in the state, and at the same time provide Maine people with jobs with upward mobility.

The Department of Education recommended to the 104th Legislature that a thorough review of the rapidly developing program was needed. This prompted the 104th Legislature to order a moratorium on building any more technical-vocational centers until a study was done to determine where new centers or programs, if any, should be located.

The Bureau of Vocational and Adult Education in the Department of Education, conducting a study during the past year, found that existing technical-vocational centers primarily serve urban areas, while rural areas are being neglected.

This study takes into consideration some of the problems facing the existing centers: the lack of commitment by sending schools; scheduling difficulties; and the students' unwillingness to attend schools which may lack community identification.

Suggestions are offered for solving these problems and for extending technical and vocational programs and services to the less-populated areas of the state.

The following recommendations are representative of the thinking of more than 200 superintendents, principals, guidance personnel, students and lay people with whom the study team counseled. (See Appendix for details on how the study was conducted)

The State Board of Education and the Bureau of Vocational and Adult Education endorse these recommendations and present them to the special session of the 105th Legislature for its consideration.

I. MORATORIUM

The current moratorium on the addition of regional technical-vocational centers should be lifted on the condition that no funds will be available for construction of new facilities until each region demonstrates that it is using existing facilities to the maximum and that a greater need for vocational programs and services exists.

II. REGIONAL GROUPINGS

The geographic boundaries of the following school districts and systems should be approved and designated as regions for vocational education: (See Map page 8)

1. NORTHERN AROOSTOOK COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Allagash, St. Agatha, Fort Kent, Madawaska, and Van Buren.

2. SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Houlton, Hodgdon, Danforth, Island Falls, Oakfield and Stacyville.

3. NORTHERN PENOBSCOT COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Millinocket, East Millinocket, Lee, Lincoln, and Howland.

4. SOUTHERN PENOBSCOT COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in East Corinth, Hermon, Hampden, Bangor, Brewer, Orono, and Old Town.

5. HANCOCK COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Bucksport, Deer Isle-Stonington, Blue Hill, Ellsworth, Mount Desert and Sullivan.

6. WASHINGTON COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Harrington, Jonesport, Machias, East Machias, Lubec, Eastport, Calais, and Woodland.

7. WALDO COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Thorndike, Belfast and Searsport.

8. KNOX COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Camden, Islesboro, North Haven, Vinalhaven, Rockland, Thomaston, and Waldoboro.

9. NORTHERN OXFORD COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Bethel, Rumford, Mexico and Dixfield.

There are schools which have been either approved by the State Board of Education as Regional Technical Vocational center sites or have submitted preliminary or final plans. These would fall within the following regions;

1. EASTERN CUMBERLAND-SAGADAHOE COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in Brunswick, Topsham, and Freeport. This region will coordinate programs and activities with the Regional Technical Vocational Center at Bath.

2. SOUTHERN OXFORD COUNTY

Containing secondary schools in South Paris and Buckfield. This region will coordinate programs and activities with the Regional Technical Vocational Center at Bridgton.

3. CENTRAL AROOSTOOK COUNTY

Containing schools in Caribou and Limestone. This region will coordinate programs and activities with the Regional Technical Vocational Center at Presque Isle.

(Historical background and a current status report on these three regions can be found in the Appendix)

III. INITIAL FUNDING (April 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973)

Listed below is the proposed maximum grant recommended for each region based upon the potential number of vocation-minded students and their needs, existing facilities and on-the-job work opportunities, and initial program planning.

Full funding of these initial or Phase I efforts is recommended because calendar 1972 budgets already are set at the local level and no provision for vocational programs has been made. Also, the local tax base in many of the regions is already overburdened.

State funds are available from an existing construction bond issue for equipment and modifications to plant and facilities.

NEW REGIONS

NORTHERN AROOSTOOK COUNTY . . . . .	.\$150,000
Administration	20,000
Planning & Development	10,000
Programs	120,000
SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK COUNTY	75,000
Administration	20,000
Planning & Development . . . . .	.5,000
Programs	50,000
NORTHERN PENOBSCOT COUNTY	125,000
Administration	20,000
Planning & Development . . . . .	.5,000
Programs	100,000
SOUTHERN PENOBSCOT COUNTY	200,000
Administration	20,000
Planning & Development	10,000
Programs	170,000
HANCOCK COUNTY	150,000
Administration	20,000
Planning & Development	10,000
Programs	120,000

WASHINGTON COUNTY	.....\$150,000
Administration	..... 20,000
Planning & Development	..... 10,000
Programs	..... 120,000
WALDO COUNTY	..... 50,000
Administration	..... 20,000
Planning & Development	..... .5,000
Programs	..... 25,000
KNOX COUNTY	..... 150,000
Administration	..... 20,000
Planning & Development	..... 10,000
Programs	..... 120,000
NORTHERN OXFORD COUNTY	..... 100,000
Administration	..... 20,000
Planning & Development	..... .5,000
Programs	..... 75,000
OPERATING SUB TOTAL	..... 1,150,000
CONTINGENCY FUND	..... 50,000
	Designated as regions but not operating
EASTERN CUMBERLAND AND SAGADAHOC COUNTY	150,000
Administration	..... 20,000
Planning & Development	..... .5,000
Programs	..... 125,000
SOUTHERN OXFORD COUNTY	..... 125,000
Administration	..... 20,000
Planning & Development	..... .5,000
Programs	..... 100,000
CENTRAL AROOSTOOK COUNTY	..... 125,000
Administration	..... 20,000
Planning & Development	..... .5,000
Programs	..... 100,000
DESIGNATED REGION SUB TOTAL	..... 40,000
TOTAL	.....\$1,600,000

IV. CONTINUED FUNDING (After July 1, 1973)

The concept of continued funding at 100 percent for initial or Phase I regional vocational programs is recommended for those programs monitored, evaluated, and judged effective according to criteria to be developed by the State Department of Education.

V. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

The following amendments to existing laws are recommended to enable school districts and systems to manage and administer cooperative and decentralized vocational education programs.

FUNDING BY EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

Section 309 of Title 20 - State of Maine Laws Relating to Public Schools, an Act permitting agreements among units for cooperative educational purposes.

Amend by striking the concept of dissolution of the agreement by failure to appropriate funds and by adding a section authorizing appropriate funding by the Commissioner.

SATELLITE CENTERS

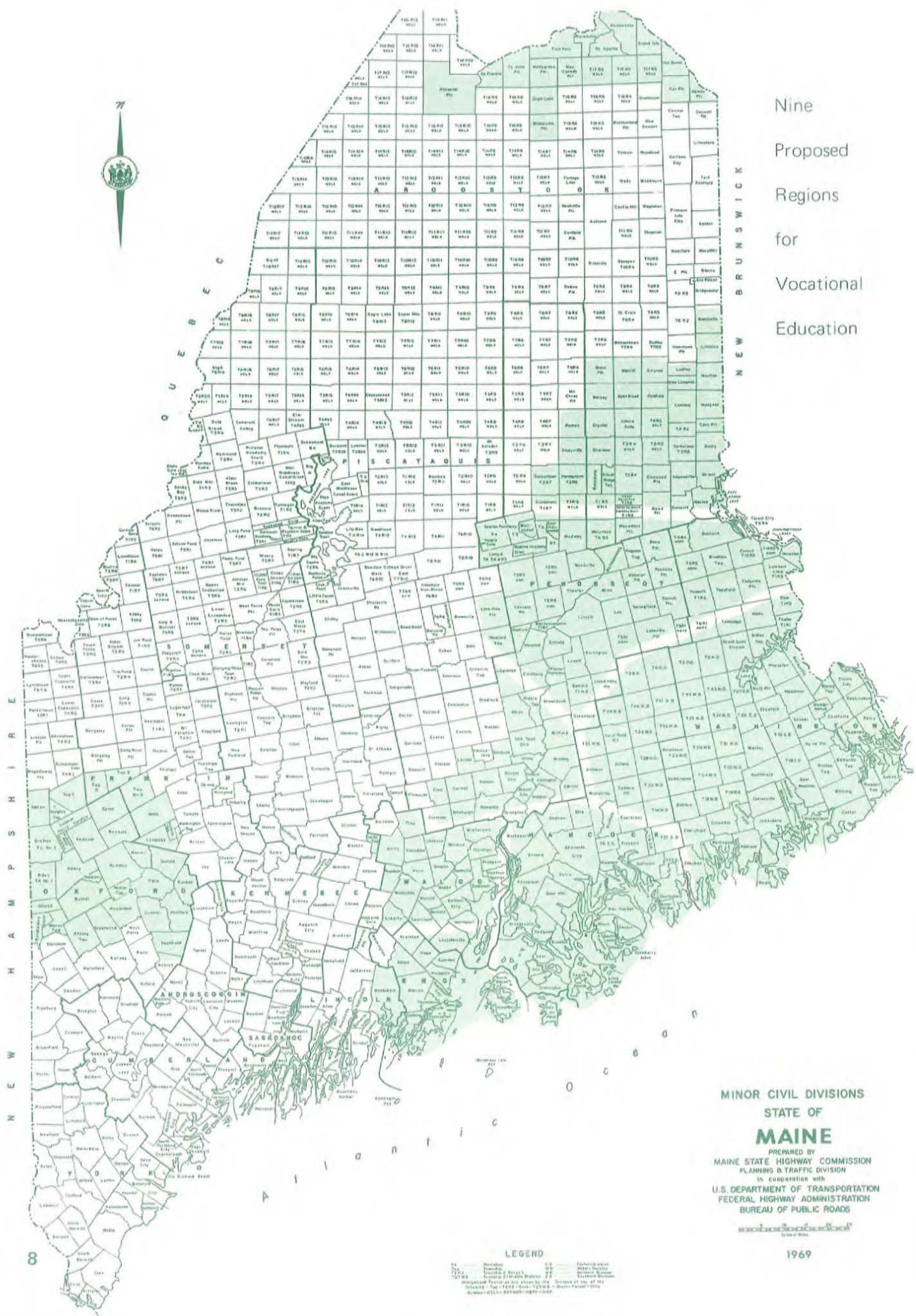
State of Maine Laws Relating to Public Schools, Title 20, Section 2356A.

Amend by adding a new subsection 4 providing for satellite programs to be added to existing regional technical vocational centers.



Nine
Proposed
Regions
for
Vocational
Education

NEW BRUNSWICK



MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS
STATE OF
MAINE
PREPARED BY
MAINE STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
PLANNING & TRAFFIC DIVISION
in cooperation with
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

LEGEND

- County Boundary
- State Boundary
- District Boundary
- Precinct Boundary
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Local Road
- Water
- Railroad

Map prepared for the State of Maine by the Bureau of Public Roads, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C.

1969

Since the passage of the Vocational Education Act of 1963, and the more recent Vocational Education Amendments of 1968, Maine has made significant progress in providing vocational and technical education at the secondary, post-secondary, and adult levels.

In addition to six post-secondary vocational technical institutes, thirteen regional centers have been established at the secondary level: Augusta, Bath, Biddeford, Bridgton, Dexter, Farmington, Lewiston, Portland, Presque Isle, Sanford, Skowhegan, Waterville, and Westbrook. (See map in Appendix)

The existing centers serve regions where 60 percent of the secondary school population, or about 40,000 students, reside.

But what about the approximately 25,000 high school students who presently do not have access to comprehensive vocational programs?

The State of Maine has made a commitment and a sizable investment to provide vocational education for all people who desire such programs.

The accompanying Table 1 gives population figures and other data, such as unemployment, for the nine geographical areas not now covered by regional technical-vocational programs or centers.

In order to meet the needs of these regions, and to avoid some of the problems which the initial regional technical-vocational centers have experienced, the State Department of Education would expect the following requirements to be met:

1. STAFFING

Each region would have a cooperative board of directors, a legal educational unit, to administer and coordinate vocational education programs in the area. Board members should represent each school system in the region, but pupils would not be excluded if their towns or school systems were not represented.

The board would retain a full-time director of vocational education. He should make sure existing educational and other local facilities are utilized to the maximum, even if equipment must be purchased and existing facilities modified.

Also, he would be responsible for setting up or expanding co-operative work-study programs with the cooperation of both business and industry.

Each region would employ at least one full-time guidance person whose prime duty would be to inform students of the various programs to be offered. He would act under the regional director.

2. PLANNING

Under the direction of the board, the director of vocational education would be responsible for short and long-range plans, paying particular attention to student interests and abilities, manpower requirements, existing job opportunities, and the needs of students and adults for part-time, afternoon, or evening courses.

Such plans would include, but not be limited to the following: population needs, an analysis of job markets and job requirements, program planning and review, available curriculum resources, student recruitment, guidance, counseling, and placement, vocational instruction, the dissemination of information on vocational education, and evaluation.

Also, prior to approval, participating schools would be required to make a firm commitment to insure that the maximum number of students would be served.

3. COURSES

Emphasis must be placed on program flexibility; such as providing for students to start or drop courses as dictated by changing needs. Also, each region must develop a balanced program which would include programs for secondary school students, the disadvantaged, handicapped, dropouts, and adults. Short term courses of varying duration are recommended.

4. FUNDING

The State Board of Education would be responsible for the approval of all plans and the location of new facilities, (if deemed necessary).

The initial or Phase I funding period would be from April 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973. Grants will be based on region population, existing programs, availability of facilities and regional needs, and thoughtful planning.

Phase II, beginning July 1, 1973, would be a continuation of those programs which are judged to be effective. Additional programs which qualify for Phase I funding also may be approved.

TABLE 1

Nine Geographic regions Currently in Need of Vocational Education Services
And the Characteristics of Need for Each Area

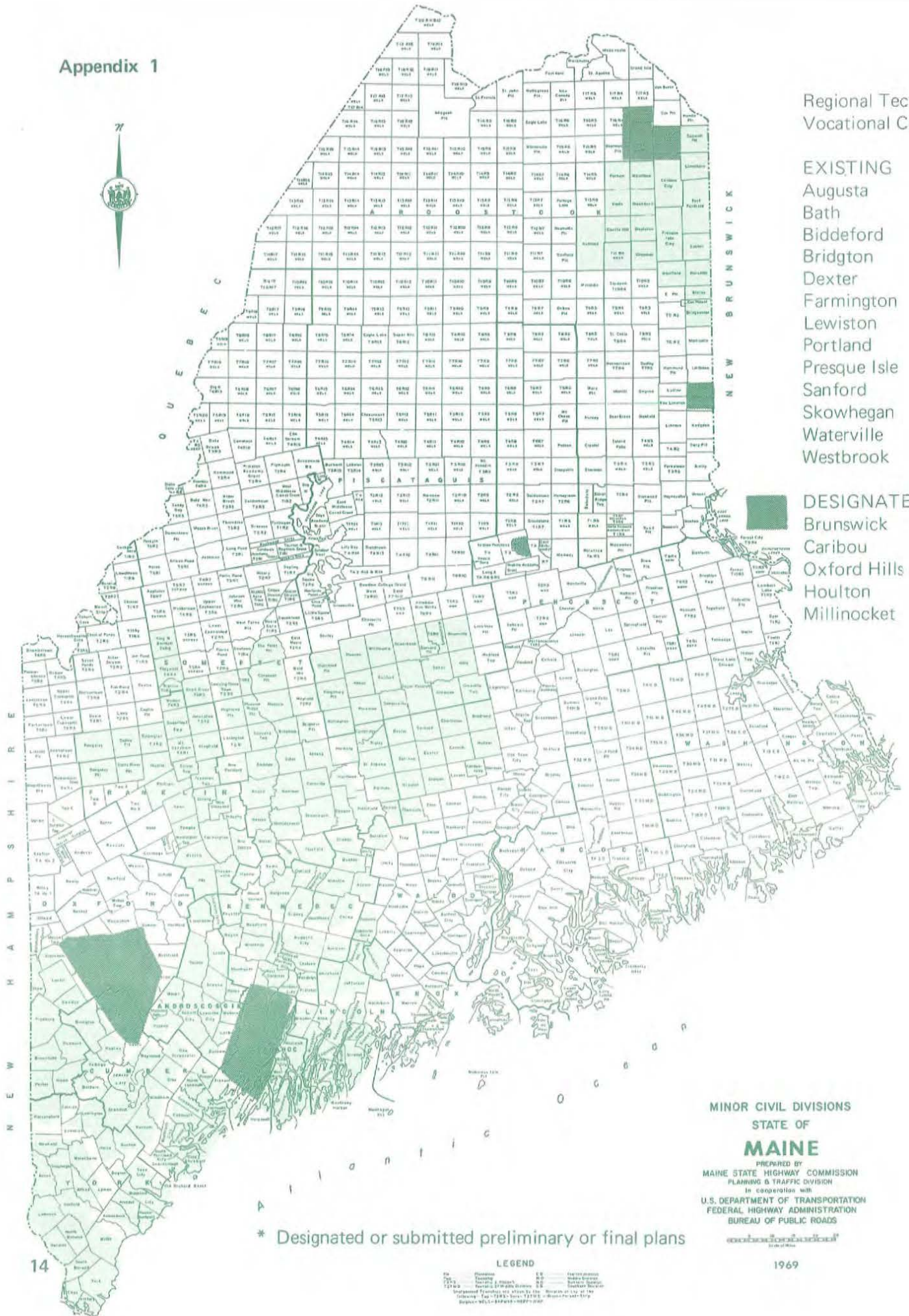
REGIONS	Total Population 1970 Census	Percent Unemployed *	Percent Youth Unemployed *	Percent Secondary Students Designated as Economically Depressed **	Percentage of Secondary Students Designated as Disadvantaged *	Percentage of Dropouts Among Secondary Students **	Percentage of Secondary Students Designated as Handicapped **
Northern Aroostook Cty.	22,075	8.9	72	72	16	4	9
Southern Aroostook Cty.	17,703	8.9	44	32	33	4	2
Northern Penobscot Cty.	23,092	4.9	9	15	8	2	2
Southern Penobscot Cty.	85,472	4.9	7	10	23	5	2
Hancock Cty.	34,590	6.0	16	60	10	3	1
Washington Cty.	29,859	10.9	35	23	51	4	4
Waldo Cty.	23,328	7.8	7	25	33	5	5
Knox Cty.	29,013	6.7	65	14	25	6	5
Northern Oxford Cty.	24,142	6.7	60	20	25	3	1

* M.E.S.C. Data

** Reports from local school

1. Map of existing technical vocational centers	Pg. 14
2. Procedure for the study	Pg. 15
3. Status Report	Pg. 16
4. Map of existing technical vocational centers with the nine proposed new regions	Pg. 18

Appendix 1



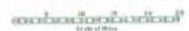
Regional Technical
Vocational Center

EXISTING
Augusta
Bath
Biddeford
Bridgton
Dexter
Farmington
Lewiston
Portland
Presque Isle
Sanford
Skowhegan
Waterville
Westbrook

DESIGNATED
Brunswick
Caribou
Oxford Hills
Houlton
Millinocket

MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS
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FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS



* Designated or submitted preliminary or final plans

LEGEND

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

APPENDIX (2) PROCEDURE FOR THE STUDY

The 105th Legislature directed the State Department of Education to make a feasibility study regarding the continued growth of regional technical vocational centers serving high school age youth and adults.

Therefore, shortly after the regular session of the 105th Legislature adjourned, a study team was formed using staff personnel to evaluate existing centers which are serving mostly urban areas and to find out whether similar centers and programs should be set up for the rest of the state. If this were the recommendation, the team also would determine what changes should be made.

The study team decided to define the areas of the state not now being served, to develop boundaries for vocational regions, and to determine the services needed.

After examining reports from similar study groups, the following criteria were established for determining boundaries for new vocational education regions:

- 1- geographic characteristics (mountains, natural flow of terrain, etc.)
- 2- population size
- 3- transportation facilities
- 4- local consumer trends and centers of business activity
- 5- distances youngsters would have to travel, with a maximum distance set at 25 miles

This led to the identification of nine service regions which have been recommended in this report. Once these regions were identified, the study team proceeded to define economic and social characteristics which could be used to evaluate the need for additional programs.

Recommendations came from the professional staff in the Bureau of Vocational Education, the annual State Plan and the Maine Advisory Council on Vocational Education.

Characteristics considered were: the total population of the area, general unemployment, youth unemployment, economically depressed areas, percentage of disadvantaged children, and of handicapped children. (This data can be found on Page 12)

The reliability of this data was verified with secondary school principals in each of the nine regions.

The study team also visited each region to have a first-hand look at existing facilities and resources. This was done to see what vocational subjects were being offered and verify the data used to determine geographic boundaries.

APPENDIX (3) STATUS REPORT

There are several school districts and systems which were not considered in this study because they either have been approved already by the State Board of Education as regional technical-vocational centers or they have submitted preliminary or final plans.

SOUTHERN OXFORD COUNTY

In 1967 S.A.D. no.17 was designated by the State Board of Education as a site for a regional technical vocational center. At the time, S.A.D. no.17 (South Paris) and S.A.D. no.61 (Bridgton) were approved with the understanding that efforts would be made to coordinate their respective programs and activities. Shortly thereafter, the voters in S.A.D. no.17 defeated a bond issue for construction of a regional technical vocational center. Before a second vote could be taken, the moratorium was put into effect.

Since that time S.A.D. no.17 has been utilizing facilities at Bridgton, instituting programs at their own expense and developing plans for the use of other existing resources.

The 27-mile distance between the two secondary schools is a deterrent to the effective use of a single center.

EASTERN CUMBERLAND-SAGADAHOC COUNTY

Brunswick has not been recognized officially by the State Board of Education as a regional technical vocational center site. The regional technical vocational center at Bath does not provide for inclusion of Brunswick and S.A.D. no.75 as participating schools. However, some students are being accepted on a space-available basis. Facilities at Bath are not sufficient to serve a large number of additional students.

In 1968 the State Board of Education tabled a regional technical vocational center proposal submitted by Brunswick. However, the 105th Legislature exempted Brunswick from the moratorium on regional technical vocational centers.

Bath, Brunswick, and S.A.D. no.75 lie within a 10-mile radius. Brunswick's present school population is approximately 1,800 secondary school students but will be 1,100 by the fall of 1973 because S.A.D. no.75 students will be attending their new high school.

CENTRAL AROOSTOOK COUNTY

Caribou was designated by the State Board of Education as a site for a regional technical vocational center in 1966. Final plans for a center were presented to and accepted by the State Board in 1969. Those plans noted the intent to establish cooperative relationships with the Presque Isle Regional Technical Vocational Center and the Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute in regard to programs and activities.

Before action could be taken the moratorium was put into effect. Since that time the Caribou school system has been utilizing facilities at S.A.D. no.1 (Presque Isle) to the extent that space is available. The school population of Caribou is equal to that of Presque Isle.

The Caribou school system has been making an effort to provide for additional student needs without the benefit of regional center funding.

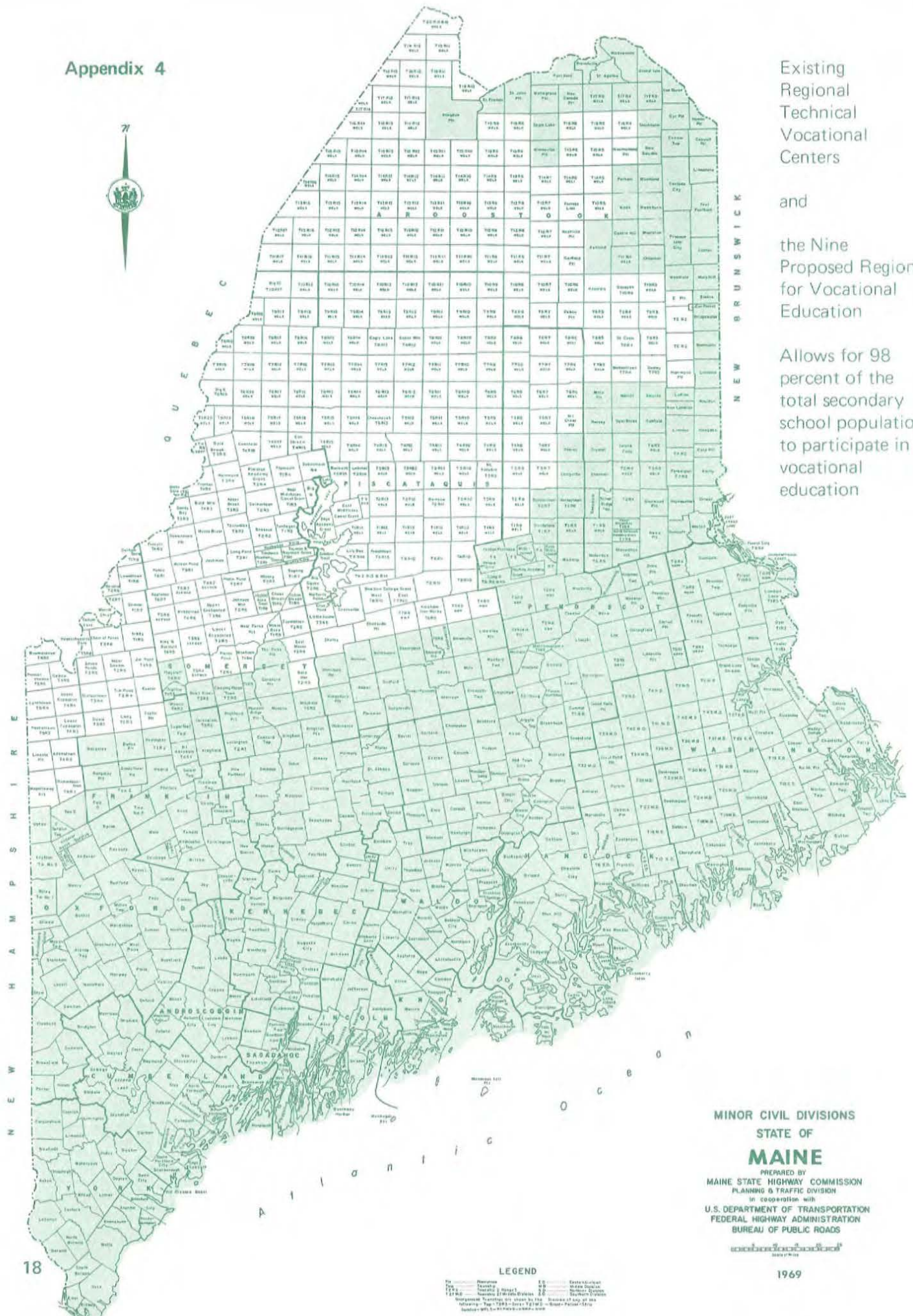


Existing
Regional
Technical
Vocational
Centers

and

the Nine
Proposed Regions
for Vocational
Education

Allows for 98
percent of the
total secondary
school population
to participate in
vocational
education



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BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

LEGEND
70 - Penobscot
71 - Piscataquis
72 - Somerset
73 - Franklin
74 - Kennebec
75 - Androscoggin
76 - Sagadahoc
77 - York
78 - Cumberland
79 - Washington
80 - Hancock
81 - Lincoln
82 - Waldo
83 - Hancock
84 - York
85 - Cumberland
86 - Washington
87 - Hancock
88 - Lincoln
89 - Waldo
90 - Hancock
91 - York
92 - Cumberland
93 - Washington
94 - Hancock
95 - Lincoln
96 - Waldo
97 - Hancock
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100 - Washington