

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
S.P. 370 - L.D. 873

An Act to Continue the Department of Education Diploma Program Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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 provision allowing a student to apply for a Department of Education diploma if the student experienced a significant interruption in education as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil emergency is set to expire on September 1, 2023; and

Whereas, this legislation is necessary to continue the effect of this provision without interruption; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §257-A, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 61, §1, is amended to read:

1-A. Eligibility for students impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding the eligibility requirements in subsection 1, a student is eligible to apply for a Department of Education diploma if that student is a 4th year secondary school student and is unable to satisfy the requirements for a diploma from a school administrative unit because the student experienced a significant interruption to the student's education as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil emergency during the student's secondary school education history.

This subsection is repealed on September 1, 2023 2026.

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