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Date: (Filing No. H-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 269, L.D. 436, “An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Mandate preamble. This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21, 2/3 of all of the members elected to each House have determined it necessary to enact this measure.'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4722, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 571, §10, is further amended to read:

3. Satisfactory completion. A secondary school student may earn a diploma if the student has satisfactorily completed all diploma requirements in accordance with the academic standards of the school administrative unit and this section. A school administrative unit shall award a high school diploma to a child with a disability, as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B, who satisfies the local diploma requirements in the manner specified by the child's individualized education plan. Career and technical students may satisfy the requirements of subsection 2 through separate or integrated study within the career and technical school curriculum, including through courses provided pursuant to section 8402 or 8451-A, on the approval of the commissioner and the local school board or in accordance with an equivalency agreement pursuant to section 8404, subsection 3, paragraph B or section 8457, subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8404, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2011, c. 679, §15, is further amended to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 B. Shall develop a cooperative agreement delineating the duties and powers of the
2 advisory committee. A cooperative agreement or any amendment to the agreement
3 must be ratified by the school board of each unit or affiliated unit served by the center.
4 A cooperative agreement must be reviewed annually by the advisory committee and
5 submitted by the center and its affiliated units to the commissioner. Beginning with the
6 school year starting after June 30, 2025, the cooperative agreement must include an
7 equivalency agreement for credit gained through a career and technical education
8 program to be accepted as a core credit toward a high school diploma for each of the
9 school administrative units governing or affiliated with the center; and

10 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §8457, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 518, §25, is further
11 amended to read:

12 **2. Cooperative agreement.** The cooperative board shall adopt a cooperative
13 agreement incorporating at a minimum each of the items listed under section 8452,
14 subsection 1. The cooperative board, with the superintendents' advisory committee, shall
15 annually review the cooperative agreement. The cooperative board may amend the
16 agreement, subject to approval by a majority of the school boards of the units served by the
17 region. A copy of the cooperative agreement and any amendments to the agreement must
18 be filed with the commissioner. Beginning with the school year starting after June 30, 2025,
19 the cooperative agreement must include an equivalency agreement for credit gained
20 through a career and technical education program to be accepted as core credit toward a
21 high school diploma for each of the school administrative units located in the region.'

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

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment requires that, before the school year
26 beginning after June 30, 2025, cooperative agreements between school administrative units
27 and career and technical education centers and regions must include an equivalency
28 agreement for credit gained through a career and technical education program to be
29 accepted as core credit toward a high school diploma. The amendment also provides that
30 career and technical education students may satisfy diploma requirements in accordance
31 with the equivalency agreements included in the cooperative agreements. The amendment
32 adds a mandate preamble.

33 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

34 **(See attached)**