

STATE OF MAINE

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

—  
H.P. 1140 - L.D. 1705

**An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8606-A, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

**8. Annual assessment and reporting.** The department shall annually assess adult education needs in the State relative to funding appropriated by the Legislature. By December 3, 2026 and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters with the findings of the assessment. The report must include:

- A. Funding allocated to each adult education program in the State;
- B. The full funding amount that each adult education program in the State is eligible for and the amount that figure has been prorated by the department;
- C. The impact of funding on adult education program outcomes;
- D. Additional funding needs;
- E. A plan for gradually increasing annual funding to adult education programs in order to reach 100% of the State's obligation for adult education funding in accordance with subsection 4; and
- F. Recommendations on improvements to adult education.

**Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8606-A, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

**9. Funds not disbursed; justification.** If funds appropriated for adult education are not disbursed in accordance with the reimbursement procedures and rates described in this section and in section 8607-A, the department shall submit to the Legislature a detailed written explanation describing the reason the funds were not disbursed and describing the purpose of the funds.

**Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §8607-B** is enacted to read:

**§8607-B. Program oversight**

**1. Guidelines.** The department shall adopt and maintain clear, transparent and consistent guidelines for the use of state funds for adult education programs to ensure fiscal responsibility and alignment with state goals.

**2. Stakeholder input.** Prior to finalizing its budget, the department shall biennially convene a stakeholder group to provide the department with input on statewide goals for adult education, funding priorities and statewide program improvements. The stakeholder group must include, but is not limited to:

A. One or more members that serve as directors of adult education programs in the State;

B. One or more members representing a statewide adult education professional association;

C. One or more members that serve as adult education instructors in the State; and

D. One or more members representing adult education students.

**Sec. 4. Distribution of funding.** The Department of Education may not distribute any funding attributable to adult education programs through a school administrative unit starting in fiscal year 2027-28. The department shall distribute all funding associated with the college transitions programs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 2 directly to adult education programs through the subsidy outlined in Title 20-A, section 8607-A.

**Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Adult Education 0364**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support adult education programs.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$150,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>