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Date: (Filing No. H-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 229, L.D. 325, “An Act To Expand the Definition of "Education Disruption" To Include States of Emergency That Limit Students' Access to On-site Education for Longer Than 15 School Days”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Allow Students Who Experienced Significant Education Interruption as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic To Be Eligible for a Department of Education Diploma'

Amend the bill by striking out all of the 3rd and 4th paragraphs after the title and inserting the following:

'Whereas, this legislation allows students who have had limited access to on-site education to become eligible for a Department of Education diploma if that student cannot meet the additional requirements necessary for a local diploma; and

'Whereas, this legislation is necessary to support students who are currently in their 4th year of secondary school with anticipated graduation in May 2021; and'

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

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §257-A, sub-§1-A is enacted 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This subsection is repealed September 1, 2023.'

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill. The amendment provides that until September 1, 2023, a 4th-year student is eligible to apply for a Department of Education diploma if the student 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.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)