

STATE OF MAINE

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

—
H.P. 229 - L.D. 325

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

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting state of emergency, many students have been unable to access on-site education on a consistent basis; and

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

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 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This subsection is repealed on September 1, 2023.

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