



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

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Legislative Document

No. 1860

H.P. 1295

House of Representatives, March 8, 2018

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**An Act To Prepare All Students for Work and Life by Requiring  
that Students Receive Instruction in Vocational Preparation and  
Practical Life Skills**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MASON of Lisbon. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)  
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and  
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, HARLOW of Portland, NADEAU of Winslow, STEARNS  
of Guilford, WOOD of Greene, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock,  
MASON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§46** is enacted to read:

3 **46. Vocational preparation and practical life skills.** "Vocational preparation and  
4 practical life skills" means experiential instruction of students, regardless of career choice  
5 or pathway, that develops their understanding of interests, aptitudes and options related to  
6 work and study; develops core workplace skills in areas such as planning,  
7 communication, problem solving, teamwork and computer applications; and includes  
8 practical workplace and home economics experiences that maximize learning through  
9 hands-on application.

10 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4711**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 313, §11, is further  
11 amended to read:

12 **§4711. Elementary course of study**

13 The basic course of study for the elementary schools must provide for the instruction  
14 of all students in ~~career~~ vocational preparation and ~~education-development~~ practical life  
15 skills, English language arts, world languages, health education and physical education,  
16 mathematics, science and technology, social studies and visual and performing arts, as  
17 described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject  
18 to the schedule specified in section 6209.

19 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4712**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §12, is amended to  
20 read:

21 **§4712. Junior high school or middle school course of study**

22 The basic course of study for the junior high schools or middle schools must provide  
23 for the instruction of all students in ~~career~~ vocational preparation and ~~education~~  
24 ~~development~~ practical life skills, English language arts, health education and physical  
25 education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing  
26 arts and world languages, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and  
27 graduation requirements subject to the schedule specified in section 6209.

28 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4721, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §13, is  
29 amended to read:

30 **1. Comprehensive program of instruction.** A secondary school shall provide a  
31 comprehensive program of instruction of at least 2 years in length, which must meet the  
32 requirements of this chapter and the parameters for essential instruction and graduation  
33 requirements established under section 6209. The program must include instruction for  
34 all students in ~~career~~ vocational preparation and ~~education-development~~ practical life  
35 skills, English language arts, health education and physical education, mathematics,  
36 science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts and world languages.

37 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §6209**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 489, §§3 to 6, is further  
38 amended to read:

1           **§6209. System of learning results established**

2           The department in consultation with the state board shall establish and implement a  
3 comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, which may include a core of  
4 standards in English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12  
5 established in common with the other states, as set forth in this section and in department  
6 rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The department must  
7 establish accountability standards at all grade levels in the areas of mathematics; reading;  
8 and science and technology. The department shall establish parameters for essential  
9 instruction in English language arts; mathematics; science and technology; social studies;  
10 ~~career vocational preparation and education-development~~ practical life skills; visual and  
11 performing arts; health, physical education and wellness; and world languages. Only a  
12 public school, a public charter school as defined in section 2401, subsection 9 or a private  
13 school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students, as  
14 determined by the previous school year's October and April average enrollment, is  
15 required to participate in the system of learning results set forth in this section and in  
16 department rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The  
17 commissioner shall develop accommodation provisions for instances where course  
18 content conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of a student's parent or  
19 guardian. The system must be adapted to accommodate children with disabilities as  
20 defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B.

21           **1-A. Accountability standards.** Each student must be assessed by means of a  
22 statewide assessment in the following areas:

- 23           A. Reading;
- 24           B. Mathematics; and
- 25           C. Science, in those content areas concerning cells and continuity and change.

26           **2. Parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements.** Each  
27 school subject to the provisions of this section shall ensure sufficient opportunity and  
28 capacity through multiple pathways for all students to study and achieve proficiency in  
29 the areas of:

- 30           A. ~~Career Vocational preparation and education-development~~ practical life skills;
- 31           B. English language arts;
- 32           C. World languages;
- 33           D. Health, physical education and wellness;
- 34           E. Mathematics;
- 35           F. Science and technology;
- 36           G. Social studies; and
- 37           H. Visual and performing arts.

38           **3. Career and education development; world languages; visual and performing**  
39 **arts.** By the end of the 2007-2008 school year, each local school administrative unit

1 shall implement standards in the areas of career and education development, world  
2 languages and visual and performing arts. Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
3 chapter, the commissioner is authorized to establish rules for inclusion of some portion of  
4 the standards in visual and performing arts for the graduating class of 2011-2012.

5 **3-A. Transcripts.** A school subject to this section shall:

6 A. Maintain student transcripts containing certification of proficiency for each  
7 content area and guiding principle in the system of learning results pursuant to this  
8 section in which the student has demonstrated proficiency;

9 B. Certify on the basis of objective measures in the transcript a student's  
10 postsecondary readiness; and

11 C. Establish a transcript that meets the requirements of paragraphs A and B as an  
12 officially sanctioned credential of student learning for admission to a postsecondary  
13 education institution and employment in a business, trade or industry.

14 **4. Review cycle.** The commissioner shall conduct a review of the content standards  
15 and performance indicators by content area on a 5-year cycle beginning in the 2015-2016  
16 school year. The review of the content standards and performance indicators for the  
17 content area of social studies, including student achievement of proficiency in personal  
18 finance, must be included in the commissioner's review during the 2015-2016 school  
19 year. Any changes that are recommended must be approved through the same process  
20 used for establishment of the system of learning results. Beginning in the 2016-2017  
21 school year, the commissioner shall review and make recommendations for objective  
22 measures that may be used to substantiate school certifications of postsecondary  
23 readiness.

## 24 SUMMARY

25 This bill changes the requirement in the system of learning results, which is the  
26 foundation for Maine's proficiency-based diploma, from "career and education  
27 development" to "vocational preparation and practical life skills," which will allow the  
28 Department of Education to emphasize experiential instruction of students, regardless of  
29 career choice or pathway, that develops their understanding of interests, aptitudes and  
30 options related to work and study; develops core workplace skills in areas such as  
31 planning, communication, problem solving, teamwork and computer applications; and  
32 includes practical workplace and home economics experiences that maximize learning  
33 through hands-on application when it revises the standards and rules to reflect the  
34 emphasis on those elements going forward.