

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

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**

**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.

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

**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:

B. Shall develop a cooperative agreement delineating the duties and powers of the advisory committee. A cooperative agreement or any amendment to the agreement must be ratified by the school board of each unit or affiliated unit served by the center. A cooperative agreement must be reviewed annually by the advisory committee and submitted by the center and its affiliated units to the commissioner. Beginning with the school year starting after June 30, 2025, the cooperative agreement must include an

equivalency agreement for credit gained through a career and technical education program to be accepted as a core credit toward a high school diploma for each of the school administrative units governing or affiliated with the center; and

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

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