

Joseph Hufnagel
Rockland
LD 628

LD 628 An Act Regarding Eligibility to Apply for a Department of Education
Diploma

I, Joseph Hufnagel, respectfully ask that our Maine DOE Diploma continue to serve students beyond 2026, which is when the current statute is set to expire.

Please note that I am not asking for the process to change, and that I recognize that this process still needs to go through the students current educational program and be approved through ME DOE.

I am simply advocating for our Maine DOE Diploma to continue to serve students who experience significant interruptions in their educational experience. For example, I am referring to students who may have had to relocate during an academic year due to circumstances beyond their control, such as economic instability. I am also referring to students who may have missed a substantial amount of school as a result of a family member or family members experiencing significant hardship, such as: intensive mental health/psychiatric challenges, substance use disorders, incarceration, or some other unexpected trauma-impacting occurrence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Joseph Hufnagel
Director of The Landing Place/Youth Services for Homeworthy
61 Park Street, Rockland, ME 04841
(207) 691-6240/jhufnagel@homeworthy.org