

Heather Pelletier  
Hermon  
LD 1069

Dear Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Heather Pelletier. I am a resident of Hermon and I am the Student Services Coordinator at Maine Vocational Region #4 - United Technologies Center in Bangor.

I am writing today to urge you to vote against LD 1069, An Act to Require Personal Finance to Be Taught as a Separate Course in Order for a Student to Obtain a High School Diploma. While I agree that personal finance skills are important life skills that Maine graduates should have upon completion of high school, adding it as a graduation requirement is not the best way to achieve this. By adding yet another graduation requirement, students may lose the ability to access critical career and technical education programming through their local CTE Center. Many students that attend CTE schools have difficulty fitting specific graduation requirements into their schedules as it is, and this new requirement would further burden them and block access to CTE programming. As you are aware, career training for high school students is not only gaining in popularity, it is an incredible benefit to the Maine workforce and economy.

As written, the bill will require ALL Maine high school students to take a standalone personal finance course. This is not necessary for students to become proficient in these skills. Personal finance can, and has been, successfully implemented through mathematics and social studies curriculums, as well as embedded into many CTE programs. Please do not create an additional barrier to students accessing their local tech school.

Again, I urge you to reject LD 1069.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Heather J. Pelletier