



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

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Senator Rafferty, Senate Chair
Representative Brennan, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

LD 1284, An Act to Require Personal Finance to be Taught as a Separate Course to Obtain a High School Diploma, proposes that the high school diploma instruction requirement related to personal finance must be met through a stand-alone course

The State diploma requirements reflect the minimum required by the State in order for a school administrative unit (SAU) to award a high school diploma. All SAUs have the ability, through local policy, to add requirements to these minimums.

The Maine Learning Results currently require SAUs to provide instruction on financial literacy, however, specific courses remain a local decision. Title 20-A, §4722 already requires personal finance as part of the required 2 years of social studies. Also included in the 2 years is history, government, and civics. It seems disproportionate to say that personal finance would have to be a standalone course.

As indicated in Title 20-A, §2(2), the control and management of the public schools shall be vested in the legislative and governing bodies of local school administrative units, as long as those units are in compliance with appropriate state statutes. This policy of "local control" provides communities with a stronger voice in critical decisions in how education is to be provided. Schools choose to offer in the way that best meets their needs. Many schools offer a senior course that covers many topics, including financial literacy. Other schools offer financial literacy as its own course. Some still embed it within both math *and* social studies courses in order to ensure students are interacting with the content through both aspects of the curriculum.

The Department will be available to provide additional information on LD 1284 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by
Beth Lambert
AC3E651B3AF74A0
Beth Lambert

Director of Innovative Instruction