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Legislative Document

No. 318

H.P. 243

House of Representatives, January 24, 2019

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

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative KESCHL of Belgrade. Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, BRYANT of Windham, FOSTER of Dexter, REED of Carmel, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: BREEN of Cumberland.

- 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:

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

The basic course of study for the elementary schools must provide for the instruction of all students in eareer vocational preparation and education development practical life skills, English language arts, world languages, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies and visual and performing arts, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject 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

The basic course of study for the junior high schools or middle schools must provide for the instruction of all students in <u>career vocational preparation</u> and <u>education</u> development practical life skills, English language arts, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts and world languages, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and 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:

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

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

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

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 259, §5, is
further amended to read:

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A. Career Vocational preparation and education development practical life skills;

SUMMARY

This bill changes the requirement in the system of learning results from "career and 24 education development" to "vocational preparation and practical life skills." The bill 25 defines "vocational preparation and practical life skills" to mean experiential instruction 26 of students, regardless of career choice or pathway, that develops their understanding of 27 interests, aptitudes and options related to work and study; develops core workplace skills 28 in areas such as planning, communication, problem solving, teamwork and computer 29 applications; and includes practical workplace and home economics experiences that 30 maximize learning through hands-on application. 31