



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 442

S.P. 174

In Senate, February 14, 2013

**Resolve, To Ensure the Continued Accessibility and Affordability of
a High School Equivalency Exam for Maine Residents**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative GIFFORD of Lincoln and
Senators: MASON of Androscoggin, PLUMMER of Cumberland, THOMAS of Somerset.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the general educational development examination, known as the GED
4 examination, has provided an opportunity for thousands of Maine residents, including
5 2,021 such Maine residents in 2011, for a 2nd chance to successfully complete their
6 secondary education, to enter the job market and to obtain postsecondary education; and

7 **Whereas,** the GED examination is currently readily accessible to Maine residents at
8 nearly 80 local adult education centers in all counties of Maine; and

9 **Whereas,** the GED examination is currently offered at no cost to Maine residents,
10 with costs shared by the State and local adult education programs; and

11 **Whereas,** the GED testing program is about to undergo dramatic changes that
12 threaten the accessibility and affordability of the test by placing significant financial
13 burdens on both the test takers and the local adult education programs that offer GED
14 testing; and

15 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
16 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
17 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 **Sec. 1. Review of options for administering a high school equivalency**
20 **examination. Resolved:** That the Department of Education, referred to in this resolve
21 as "the department," shall undertake a thorough study of all options for the administration
22 of a high school equivalency examination, including those offered by competing vendors;
23 and be it further

24 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the department shall prepare and submit a report
25 based on its study under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
26 Cultural Affairs comparing the various high school equivalency examination options
27 based on their cost, accessibility and educational efficacy. The department's report must
28 include a plan for ensuring the continued availability of a high school equivalency
29 examination at no cost to test takers and continued accessibility at all local adult
30 education programs currently offering this service with minimal financial impact on these
31 programs. The department shall submit its report and plan to the Joint Standing
32 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by April 1, 2013.

33 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
34 legislation takes effect when approved.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This resolve requires the Department of Education to examine the options for the
37 administration of a high school equivalency examination and to develop a plan for the
38 continued availability of a high school equivalency examination. The department shall

1 submit its report and plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural
2 Affairs by April 1, 2013.