



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 466

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H.P. 316

House of Representatives, February 14, 2013

### An Act To Provide an Honorary Diploma to Veterans

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CHIPMAN of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator TUTTLE of York and  
Representatives: BEAULIEU of Auburn, CASAVANT of Biddeford, LUCHINI of Ellsworth,  
MacDONALD of Boothbay, RUSSELL of Portland, VEROW of Brewer, Senators:  
MAZUREK of Knox, MILLETT of Cumberland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4012** is enacted to read:

3 **§4012. Honorary secondary school diploma for veterans**

4 **1. Honorary secondary school diploma for veterans.** The department, with the  
5 assistance of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau  
6 of Maine Veterans' Services, shall issue an honorary secondary school diploma to a  
7 qualified veteran of the United States Armed Forces under this section. An honorary  
8 secondary school diploma awarded under this section must include a statement that the  
9 diploma is awarded in recognition of the veteran's military service and fulfillment of civic  
10 duty and indicate the veteran's secondary school of attendance.

11 **2. Criteria.** A veteran of the United States Armed Forces may receive an honorary  
12 secondary school diploma under this section if the veteran:

13 **A.** Is a resident or former resident of the State;

14 **B.** Was honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or was killed  
15 while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

16 **C.** Did not complete the veteran's secondary school education.

17 **An honorary secondary school diploma under this section may be awarded posthumously.**

18 **3. Application.** The department shall issue an honorary secondary school diploma  
19 upon application by a veteran qualified under subsection 2 or an interested party on a  
20 qualified veteran's behalf. The department shall develop an application form and  
21 procedures to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

22 **4. Issuance of diplomas; ceremony.** The department shall mail an honorary  
23 secondary school diploma to a veteran approved for an honorary secondary school  
24 diploma under subsection 3 or the family of the veteran if the veteran is deceased or  
25 award the diploma in a graduation ceremony on or around Veterans Day organized in  
26 collaboration with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management,  
27 Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services.

28 **5. Rules.** The department may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.  
29 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5,  
30 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill directs the Department of Education with assistance from the Department of  
33 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to  
34 issue honorary secondary school diplomas to qualifying veterans of the United States  
35 Armed Forces who did not finish secondary school.