



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

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COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: #VII.C.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Steven L. Bowen, Commissioner*

DATE: December 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Provisional Adoption of Chapter 115, "Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel"

BACKGROUND: On September 28, 2011, changes made to Title 20-A during the 125th Legislature went into effect. Accordingly, Chapter 115 was opened to revise the corresponding rules. LD 129, "An Act to Eliminate Dual Certification Requirements for Speech-Language Pathologists" now allows professionals who are licensed by the State of Maine to be employed in Maine schools without needing to hold the Department of Education educational specialist certificate. LD 1094, "An Act to Improve the Delivery of School Psychological Services to Children" eliminates references to the title "School Psychological Service Providers" and changes the title to "School Psychologists." The revised rule reinstates a requirement for supervision during the first year of independent practice in order to renew the initial certificate. It will also reinstate a transcript analysis pathway to certification that was removed during an earlier revision to Chapter 115.

A public hearing was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM during which time several members of the public provided testimony. Several additional comments were received in written form during the comment period which went until December 5, 2011. As a result of the public hearing and comment period, several minor non-substantial changes were made to the proposed drafted changes to Chapter 115 originally presented to the State Board of Education in October.

CERTIFICATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Certification and Higher Education Committee recommends that the State Board of Education provisionally adopt the changes to Chapter 115, Part I and Part II, Rules for Certification, Authorization, and Approval of Education Personnel as presented.

*Exhibit was prepared by Mark A. Cyr, Certification Coordinator