

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 541

S. P. 175

In Senate, January 27, 1965

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Snow of Cumberland and Senator Brown of Hancock.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

RESOLVE, Appropriating Moneys for a Study of Higher Education.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves do not become effective until 90 days after the Legislature adjourns unless passed as emergencies; and

Whereas, education in Maine and the nation is the foundation of enlightened democracy; and

Whereas, a study should be immediately instituted to the end that no qualified Maine youth should be denied the opportunity for higher education; and

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

Study of higher education; appropriation. Resolved: That there is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966, the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive study of higher education in Maine; and be it further

Resolved: That the Governor be authorized to create an Advisory Commission for the Higher Education Study; that the Advisory Commission shall consist of 11 members including the President of the University of Maine, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Economic Development and 8 members appointed by the Governor who shall be a president of a teachers college, a president of a private college, a principal of a vocational-technical institute, a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education, a member

of the House of Representatives, a member of the Senate, a representative from industry and a representative from labor; and be it further

Resolved: That the Governor appoint a chairman and the Advisory Commission shall have the power to employ a director and such consultative, statistical and clerical services as may be needed to carry out the study, and shall have the power to provide such office space, supplies and equipment as may also be needed, and shall have the responsibility of completing the study, together with recommendations for a master plan for the development of all state public institutions of higher education, on or before January 15, 1967; and be it further

Resolved: That any balance of this appropriation shall not lapse until the purposes of this resolve shall have been accomplished.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In addition to the development of a master plan, the purposes of the study would include these:

- a. To discover the most economical and effective means of providing desired educational opportunities for Maine youth at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.
- b. To ascertain the number of qualified students who will be demanding post-secondary education in the years ahead.
- c. To improve the coordination of efforts to avoid wasteful duplications of programs and facilities in the state colleges and university as they are expanded to meet increased demands.
- d. To ascertain the necessary steps to be taken to secure accreditation for the public non-accredited colleges in Maine.

At a time when Maine ranks last among the 50 states in the percentage of high school graduates going on to some form of post-secondary education, it is mandatory that optimum use be made of all the state's public resources in higher education, and that the most informed and intelligent planning be made for coordination and expansion of these resources in the future, to the end that no qualified Maine youth be denied the opportunity for higher education.