

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1415

H.P. 991

House of Representatives, April 7, 2009

**Resolve, To Promote Partnerships between the University of Maine
System and the Maine Business Community**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative LOVEJOY of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator ALFOND of Cumberland and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, FLOOD of Winthrop, MARTIN of Orono,
McFADDEN of Dennysville.

1 **Sec. 1. Pilot project. Resolved:** That the University of Maine System and the
2 Department of Economic and Community Development shall establish a pilot project to
3 provide financial support for developing partnerships between the University of Maine
4 System and Maine's business community and to provide assistance to Maine's business
5 community in developing the skills and expertise needed for Maine's future economic
6 growth.

7 1. An equal amount of funding must be provided in each biennium to each university
8 campus in the University of Maine System, to be used for funding new partnership
9 initiatives with regional businesses. Of that amount, a maximum of 10% of the funds
10 may be used for marketing the partnership initiatives of the pilot program to regional
11 businesses and the remaining 90% of the funds must be used for either tuition or course
12 development by the faculty of the university campus.

13 2. Any funds not used during the biennium by any university campus for the purposes
14 of the pilot project may not be used for any other purpose, but must lapse to the General
15 Fund.

16 3. Failure to use funds may not result in any penalty or restriction on future
17 allocations.

18 4. University campuses may work in partnership with each other to provide services
19 to regional businesses.

20 5. A university campus and a regional business or group of businesses may negotiate
21 tuition funding, allowing each partnership initiative of the pilot project to be funded with
22 up to 100% of tuition paid through the funds provided under the pilot project.

23 6. In order to participate in the pilot project, a regional business or group of
24 businesses:

25 A. Must intend to create or preserve jobs. The new jobs created or preserved must
26 pay a wage of at least 150% of the state minimum wage. If the regional business or
27 group of businesses does not create or preserve the job or jobs anticipated, there is no
28 recapture of the funding or penalty to the company or university, but that regional
29 business or group of businesses is ineligible to participate in the pilot project; or

30 B. Be a Maine company, subject to increasing competition from nondomestic
31 competitors, and be able to benefit from the opportunity provided by the pilot project
32 to increase employee skill levels; and be it further

33 **Sec. 2. Evaluation of pilot project. Resolved:** That the University of Maine
34 System and the Department of Economic and Community Development, referred to in
35 this section as "the departments," shall establish a process and criteria for evaluating the
36 effectiveness of the pilot project established in section 1. The departments shall submit
37 the results of the evaluation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
38 jurisdiction over education matters in a written report no later than January 15, 2012,
39 along with the departments' recommendation as to whether the pilot project should be

1 expanded, modified, reduced or terminated. In lieu of any action by the Legislature, the
2 pilot project terminates June 30, 2012.

3

SUMMARY

4 This resolve directs the University of Maine System and the Department of Economic
5 and Community Development to develop a pilot project to provide financial support for
6 developing partnerships between the University of Maine System and Maine's business
7 community and to provide assistance to Maine's business community in developing the
8 skills and expertise needed for Maine's future economic growth.