

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1558

H.P. 1016

House of Representatives, April 10, 2025

### **Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT

Clerk

Presented by Representative SARGENT of York.  
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and  
Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, DODGE of Belfast, MITCHELL of Cumberland,  
MURPHY of Scarborough, Senators: LIBBY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York.

1       **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Update  
2       Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education, referred to in this resolve as "the commission,"  
3       is established.

4       **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
5       353, the commission consists of 17 members, including:

6           1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, who serve on  
7           the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, including one member of  
8           the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party  
9           holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

10          2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
11          House, who serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,  
12          including 2 members of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and  
13          one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

14          3. One member with expertise in higher education policy issues representing a  
15          statewide education policy research institute, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16          4. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine  
17          Community College System, appointed by the President of the Senate;

18          5. One member representing the certification and higher education committee of the  
19          State Board of Education, appointed by the President of the Senate;

20          6. One member who is employed as a faculty member at a private college or university  
21          in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate;

22          7. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the  
23          University of Maine System, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

24          8. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine  
25          Maritime Academy, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

26          9. One member representing private colleges and universities in the State, appointed  
27          by the Speaker of the House;

28          10. One member who is currently enrolled as a student at a college or university in the  
29          State, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

30          11. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;

31          12. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designee;

32          13. The President of the Maine Maritime Academy or the president's designee; and

33          14. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee.

34          In appointing members of the commission, the appointing authorities shall give  
35          consideration to race, gender, socioeconomic diversity and geographic diversity.

36       **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
37       and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the  
38       commission.

39       **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
40       appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this

1 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
2 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,  
3 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more  
4 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been  
5 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for  
6 the commission to meet and conduct its business.

7 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall review all related laws and  
8 rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education, including, but not limited to,  
9 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10902, and make recommendations for  
10 potential legislative changes. In conducting its review, the commission shall analyze  
11 present and future goals, including, but not limited to, expanding access to affordable high-  
12 quality higher education to help students achieve postsecondary success. To assist the  
13 commission in carrying out its review, the Department of Education, the University of  
14 Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy  
15 shall each provide to the commission any data and information the commission considers  
16 relevant to its work. At the discretion of the chairs, the commission may seek input from  
17 any students, faculty or staff in the State's public institutions of higher education, groups  
18 that have an interest in the State's public institutions of higher education and other  
19 stakeholders.

20 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide  
21 necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support  
22 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

23 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 3, 2025, the commission  
24 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
25 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint  
26 standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session  
27 of the 132nd Legislature.

## 28 SUMMARY

29 This resolve establishes the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher  
30 Education to review all related laws and rules addressing the State's public policy on higher  
31 education and make recommendations for potential legislative changes. The commission  
32 is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural  
33 Affairs no later than December 3, 2025 with findings and recommendations, including  
34 suggested legislation.