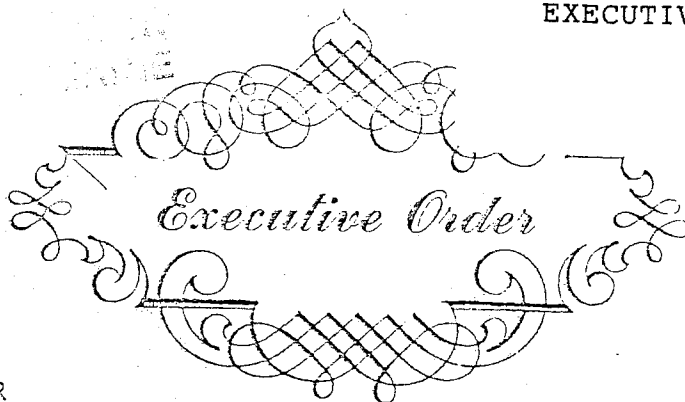


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NO. 2 FY 83/84
DATE July 22, 1983

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF EDUCATION IN MAINE

WHEREAS, in the Governor's State of the State Address of February 22, 1983, I called for a renewed commitment by the State to providing quality educational opportunities for Maine people; and

WHEREAS, the economic vitality of Maine depends upon the strength of our educational system, and its capacity to respond to changing economic and social conditions; and

WHEREAS, the national and state economies are changing rapidly and dramatically, presenting new challenges and job opportunities for our people who are prepared for them; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to assure that Maine's educational system can educate our youths to higher levels of technical knowledge and understanding, and retrain our workers in changing industries and declining occupations for the opportunities of the future; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish strong and enduring partnerships among community, business, labor, government, and educational leaders to improve education, training, and research that will lead to sound growth; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to assure sound and reliable sources of funding for the proper education of our citizens, and to effect those changes which are needed at this time; and

WHEREAS, there are many private and public groups with a strong interest in our educational system and our economic growth; many efforts now underway to improve our schooling, training, and economic opportunities; and a need to bring these several efforts together into clear focus for public debate and consideration,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, do hereby establish a Governor's Commission on the Status of Education in Maine, comprised of eminent and knowledgeable individuals, to review Maine's educational system and identify initiatives to assure that our people are best prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities in our future.

NAME AND MEMBERSHIP: The Commission will be known as the Governor's Commission on the Status of Education in Maine, and consist of fifteen members and an executive secretary appointed by the Governor.

SCOPE OF WORK: The Commission will address the following issues related to education and educational policy, and hold public meetings and conduct studies as necessary to develop findings and recommendations respecting each.

1. What is the relationship between education, personal development, and economic growth, in theory and in practice? What attributes and skills ought our educational system impart to our youth and our work force, to prepare them best to realize the economic opportunities before us and to lead productive and rewarding lives?

2. How do we improve the quality of learning in Maine schools? What new requirements, if any, are desirable for elementary and high school graduation in Maine? For technical school and college entrance? In light of the recent findings of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, what changes in curriculum, standards, and instructional time are warranted in Maine at this time?

3. How do we assure quality teaching in Maine schools? In light of these same findings, what incentives, educational programs, performance standards, or other innovations will build and keep the strongest possible teaching profession in Maine schools, colleges, and technical schools?

4. How do we improve the quality and availability of higher education for Maine people? What academic and vocational opportunities in higher education will Maine people need to make their greatest contribution to society? How do we assure the greatest possible quality in higher education at an affordable cost of delivery and administration? How do we foster the greatest possible quality and professional satisfaction among our faculty members? How can we better allocate our public resources so that our higher education system is best organized, staffed, and financed to meet our needs?

5. How do we assure timely and effective delivery of vocational education and job training services to Maine's present and future labor force? What will be the State's future needs and priorities in vocational and job training? How might current programs be better organized and directed to meet these needs and priorities? What opportunities exist for cooperation between the public and private sectors in this regard, and how are they to be promoted?

6. How can the State improve its capabilities in industrial research and development and technology transfer? What will be the needs of Maine's private enterprise for applied technical research? How can private enterprise, State government, and the

State's educational institutions better organize to meet these needs together?

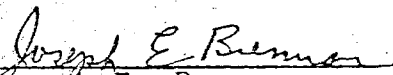
7. What is the best method for Maine to finance its educational system for the long term? What changes are necessary and desirable in the way we finance education in Maine, from the elementary through the college level? What are the benefits and costs of the current financing mechanisms? What alternatives ought to be considered by the several decision-making bodies which govern the system?

8. How do we increase public commitment to and involvement in quality education at every level in Maine? How may parents, business and community leaders, and students be more effectively engaged in the operation of our education system? How may the value of quality education to the community be more widely recognized? How may a general public attitude of respect for the requirements and costs of quality education be enhanced?

The Commission will address these and other aspects of the State's educational system relating to personal development and economic growth, which it deems appropriate.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTING: The Commission will report on its progress from time to time to the Governor, with such findings and recommendations as it pleases to transmit. The Commission will make a progress report to the Governor on or before December 31, 1983; and a final report to the Governor with recommendations for legislative or administrative action not later than December 31, 1984.

RESOURCES AND STAFF: The State Planning Office will provide staff support to the Commission. The Department of Educational and Cultural Services, The Department of Labor, The State Development Office, and other agencies of State government will make resources and information available to the Commission upon its request.


Joseph E. Brennan
GOVERNOR