

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1259

S. P. 498

In Senate, March 2, 1967

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and 3,000 copies ordered printed.

JERROLD B. SPEERS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Katz of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to Public Policy on Higher Education.

Preamble. Because education is the cornerstone in the building of a happy and productive society, and is the passkey to prosperity, realistic state education goals are declared essential.

The people of Maine are desirous of and entitled to the bountiful benefits of a substantially expanded system of higher education.

The people of Maine are desirous of and entitled to equal opportunity for a quality post high school education.

We declare that we can no longer afford to waste any of our human resources, that higher education must be made available to our youth irrespective of economic status or geographic location.

We declare our responsibility to recognize education as a continuing need of our people and to afford widespread opportunities in adult education.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

R. S., T. 20, § 2251, repealed and replaced. Section 2251 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2251. Public policy on higher education

The following are the fundamental policies to be adhered to in the state's public higher education planning:

1. **Recognition.** To recognize higher education as an organized program of instruction, research and service, primarily concerned with the field of organized knowledge, related theory and associated practice by a collegiate institution, not necessarily of 4 years, authorized to award academic degrees, which is administered and systematically pursued on a full-time or part-time basis by persons who have completed secondary school or who demonstrate equivalent competence through appropriate means.

2. **Principles.** To support the principles that each higher education institution in the State of Maine, public and private, shall have control over its education program and related activities within its board of control, and that its faculty shall enjoy the freedom traditionally accorded higher education institutions in teaching, research and expression of opinions.

3. **Cohesive system.** To develop, maintain and support a structure of public higher education in the State of Maine which will assure the most cohesive system possible for planning, action and service in providing higher education opportunities, to which the highest priority for fiscal support is assigned.

4. **Programs.** To provide in its public higher education institutions, or through cooperative arrangements with private institutions or institutions outside the State, the programs of study, research or experimentation that its citizens may require.

5. **Encourage growth.** To encourage the growth and development of existing or new private higher education institutions within its borders where studies justify their continuation or establishment.

6. **All citizens eligible.** To recognize that all citizens of Maine shall be considered eligible for the benefits of appropriate higher education whether they are high school graduates or the equivalent, or those seeking retraining or training for new careers.

7. **Public funds.** To assign continually a high priority in the allocation of public funds to the development of services, programs and institutions designed to provide opportunities for those who do not now share equitably in the advantages of higher education, because of limiting economic, social, educational and cultural factors.

8. **Financial support.** To support financially the programs of its public higher education institutions through appropriations, grants and loans, based on comprehensive plans and budgets, both short-term and long-term, and expect appropriate public accountability for such support.

9. **Federal funds.** To encourage all institutions, public and private, to make maximum use of federal funds available for the support of higher education programs and activities, the State to provide matching funds, where necessary, initially and on a continuing basis.

10. **Cooperative undertakings.** To expect and request cooperative undertakings among the higher education institutions, public and private, and between them and the business, industrial and labor interests of the State in order to further the development of quality and quantity in educational programs and services and the advancement of the state's economy.

11. **Evaluation and research.** To encourage through financial support and the expectation of annual reporting, a continuing program of evaluation and research with respect to higher education opportunities in the State.

12. **Master plan.** To give through legislative action and appropriate publicity a high priority to the master plan for higher education as these are stated and revised from time to time by responsible educational and governmental authorities.

13. **Commuter education.** To make the most effective use possible of the financial resources allocated to public higher education by maximum emphasis on commuter facilities.