

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 914

8 H.P. 644

House of Representatives, March 5, 1985

9 Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Bost of Orono.

Cosponsored by Representative Crouse of Caribou, Senator Brown of
Washington and Representative Matthews of Caribou.

13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 RESOLVE, Creating a Special Commission to
19 Study Teacher Training in the
20 University of Maine System.
21

22 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves
23 of the Legislature do not become effective until 90
24 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;
25 and

26 Whereas, the 111th Legislature enacted improve-
27 ments to the teacher certification law during the
28 First Regular Session; and

29 Whereas, the purpose of the certification law
30 reforms is to improve the education received by Maine
31 students by providing high minimum standards for be-
32 ginning teachers, in-service training and assistance
33 for experienced teachers and a career ladder for the
34 professional advancement of all teachers; and

1 Whereas, the 111th Legislature enacted numerous
2 education reform measures during the Third Special
3 Session designed to improve elementary and secondary
4 education in Maine; and

5 Whereas, many of those reforms are to be imple-
6 mented in the classroom and their success is largely
7 dependent on the quality of the teacher in the class-
8 room; and

9 Whereas, it is necessary to begin implementation
10 of those reforms immediately to address deficiencies
11 in the educational system; and

12 Whereas, one-third of the teacher workforce in
13 Maine is trained at the University of Maine and those
14 teachers have a significant impact on the quality of
15 education provided to Maine students; and

16 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
17 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
18 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
19 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
20 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
21 therefore,

22 **Special commission created. Resolved:** The Sen-
23 ate concurring, that a Special Commission to Study
24 Teacher Training in the University of Maine System,
25 referred to as the commission, be established to re-
26 view teacher preparation programs at the campuses of
27 the University of Maine, report its findings to the
28 people of the State and make recommendations to the
29 Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature; and
30 be it further

31 **Membership. Resolved:** That the commission shall
32 consist of 15 members. Five of the members shall be
33 Legislators and shall be members of the Joint Stand-
34 ing Committee on Education. The President of the
35 Senate shall appoint 2 of the legislative members and
36 the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall ap-
37 point 3 of the legislative members. The commission
38 shall also consist of one member of the State Board
39 of Education, one representative of the University of
40 Maine system and one representative of elementary or
41 secondary school management, all appointed by the

1 President of the Senate, and one representative of
2 the Department of Educational and Cultural Services,
3 one representative of vocational-technical institutes
4 and one representative of teachers, all appointed by
5 the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Three
6 members shall represent colleges of education or de-
7 partments, divisions or offices of education at dif-
8 ferent campuses of the University of Maine. One of
9 the university education members shall be appointed
10 by the President of the Senate and 2 shall be ap-
11 pointed by the Speaker of the House of Representa-
12 tives. One additional member shall represent the
13 public and shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
14 House of Representatives. All appointments shall be
15 made within 30 days of passage of this resolve; and
16 be it further

17 **Reimbursement. Resolved:** That members of the
18 commission shall not be paid per diem, but shall be
19 reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in
20 the performance of their duties; and be it further

21 **Issues to be considered. Resolved:** That the
22 commission examine the status of teacher preparation
23 at the University of Maine, including the following:

24 1. Admission requirements for prospective teach-
25 ers, including test scores, grade point average and
26 other criteria;

27 2. Profile of incoming teachers as compared to
28 other students based on test scores, grade point av-
29 erage and other criteria;

30 3. Motivation of incoming teachers determined by
31 a survey conducted by the commission or other appro-
32 priate means;

33 4. Graduation requirements, including practicum
34 experience;

35 5. Career counseling provided to prospective
36 teachers;

37 6. Placement of graduates of teacher preparation
38 programs;

1 7. Assessment of student and graduate opinions
2 of the teacher preparation programs determined by a
3 survey of recent graduates conducted by the commis-
4 sion;

5 8. Teacher preparation methods employed in un-
6 dergraduate and graduate programs;

7 9. Professional staff -- qualifications and rate
8 of turnover;

9 10. Materials and resources available for teach-
10 er preparation programs;

11 11. Appropriateness of the level of funding of
12 teacher preparation programs;

13 12. Impact of the new certification law on
14 teacher preparation programs; and

15 13. Comparison of programs' offerings between
16 campuses; and be it further

17 Legislative conference on teacher training. Re-
18 solved: That following consideration of the issues
19 listed in this resolve, the commission shall schedule
20 a series of public meetings to be known as the Legis-
21 lative Conference on Teacher Training. The purpose
22 of the conference shall be to present the commis-
23 sion's findings on the status of teacher training in
24 Maine and to receive public comments on that status
25 and ways in which it may be improved. The meetings
26 shall be scheduled at a convenient place and time in
27 the evening and shall be widely advertised to encour-
28 age attendance by interested persons; and be it fur-
29 ther

30 Report to the Legislature. Resolved: That the
31 commission shall report its recommendations, includ-
32 ing recommendations for changes, if any, to the First
33 Regular Session of the 113th Legislature. The report
34 shall include any necessary implementing legislation,
35 estimates of the cost of implementation and possible
36 funding options; and be it further

37 Funding. Resolved: That the Legislative Council
38 shall allocate, from the Legislative Account, money

