

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 1452

S.P. 548

In Senate, April 11, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland  
Cosponsored by Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield, Representative CROWLEY of  
Stockton Springs and Senator FOSTER of Hancock.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

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**Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study the History, Status, Impact  
and Role of Independent Higher Education in Maine.**

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2           **Whereas,** independent higher education plays a critical role  
in the State; and

4           **Whereas,** more than 5,000 Maine students annually attend one  
of the 12 independent institutions of higher education in the  
6           State, many in programs not offered by the state-supported  
institutions; and

8           **Whereas,** Maine's future ability to be competitive  
10           economically, financially and intellectually depends in large  
measure on the availability of quality higher education; now,  
12           therefore, be it

14           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission  
to Study the History, Status, Impact and Role of Independent  
16           Higher Education in Maine is established; and be it further

18           **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists  
of 9 members appointed as follows.

20           1. The Governor shall appoint 3 members, one of whom must  
22           be a member of the Higher Education Council of Maine, one of whom  
must be a member of the Legislature and one of whom must be a  
24           business, education or community leader. Of these members, at  
least 2 must be graduates of independent institutions of higher  
26           education and at least 2 must be residents of the State.

28           2. The President of the Senate shall appoint 3 members, one  
of whom must be a member of the Legislature and 2 of whom must be  
30           business, education or community leaders. Of these members, at  
least 2 must be graduates of independent institutions of higher  
32           learning and at least 2 must be residents of the State.

34           3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
appoint 3 members, one of whom must be a member of the  
36           Legislature and 2 of whom must be business, education or  
community leaders. Of these members, at least 2 must be  
38           graduates of independent institutions of higher education and at  
least 2 must be residents of the State; and be it further

40           **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings; chair. Resolved:** That all  
42           appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the  
effective date of this resolve. The commission shall select a  
44           chair from among its members. When the appointment of the  
members is completed, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall  
46           call the first meeting within 30 days; and be it further

48           **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the  
history, status, impact and role of independent higher

2 education in the State and make recommendations for the future  
3 role of these institutions. In conducting this study, the  
4 commission shall:

6 1. Examine the historical significance of, as well as the  
7 current educational opportunities provided by, independent higher  
8 education for the people of this State, including program  
9 offerings available to the students of this State, the impact of  
10 research programs and teaching activities, the availability of  
11 facilities and community programs and student enrollments;

12 2. Evaluate the capacity of independent higher educational  
13 institutions to meet future educational and economic needs of the  
14 State and examine how these institutions may work together with  
15 state-supported institutions to better serve such needs;

16 3. Review the mechanisms by which independent higher  
17 educational institutions can complement the State's public higher  
18 education systems by providing education, research or other  
19 services;

20 4. Evaluate the state student financial aid policy and  
21 practice and the extent to which it supports independent higher  
22 educational institutions;

23 5. Analyze the relative cost of independent and public  
24 higher education with and without the support of public funds; and

25 6. Make recommendations on how state policy and law may be  
26 changed to provide a more meaningful role for independent higher  
27 educational institutions in state educational planning and  
28 services; and be it further

29 **Sec. 5. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit  
30 its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,  
31 to the First Regular Session of the 116th Legislature and the  
32 Office of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council by  
33 November 1, 1992; and be it further

34 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the commission may  
35 contract with a consultant to provide professional services in  
36 carrying out these duties. The consultant shall provide clerical  
37 assistance to the commission and shall prepare any legislation  
38 recommend by the commission. The chair of the commission shall  
39 manage the consultant's work; and be it further

40 **Sec. 7. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the members of the  
41 commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative  
42 per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,  
43 section 2, for days of attendance at commission meetings. All  
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