

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

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Legislative Document

No. 2328

S.P. 908

In Senate, February 13, 1992

Submitted by the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring pursuant to Public Law 1991, chapter 139.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**Resolve, Authorizing the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education to Study Education Policy in the State.**

(EMERGENCY)

Printed on recycled paper



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

4  
6           **Whereas,** the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education is  
authorized to advise the Legislature on important education  
policy matters; and

8  
10          **Whereas,** the coalition must immediately begin its work to  
meet the December 15, 1992 reporting deadline established by this  
resolve; and

12  
14          **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
16 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore, be it

18  
20          **Sec. 1. Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education authorized to  
study education policy. Resolved:** That the Maine Coalition for  
Excellence in Education, referred to in this resolve as the  
22 "coalition," shall advise the Legislature and the Governor on  
education policy in the State; and be it further

24  
26          **Sec. 2. Structure of education system. Resolved:** That the  
coalition shall study and make recommendations to the Legislature  
and the Governor on the governance and structure of the State's  
28 education system, including the State Board of Education, the  
Department of Education, regional education systems, regional and  
30 local school district governance, and the relationship between  
state and local school systems, including the following matters:

32           1. The functions of the State Board of Education;

34           2. Whether the Department of Education should establish  
36 standard outcome or achievement goals for all students and tests  
to measure student achievement;

38           3. Whether the Department of Education should assign school  
40 units responsibility for developing local curricula designed to  
meet the goals established by the department;

42           4. Whether the University of Maine System and other  
44 educational organizations should play a leadership role in  
curriculum development and education and training for teachers;

46           5. Whether the Department of Education should provide  
48 grants to school districts, with incentives for consolidated or  
collaborating districts, to obtain technical assistance from  
50 sources of their choosing to improve curriculum and teacher  
performance;

52

2 6. Revision of the school funding formula to promote  
4 expenditure control, equity of educational opportunity,  
6 performance-based measures, taxpayer equity, flexibility in the  
8 state share of the funding based on availability of revenues and  
continued state payment of the employer portion of teacher  
retirement system contributions. A report on school funding must  
be submitted to the Governor, the Legislature and the Office of  
the Executive Director of the Legislative Council by July 1992;

10 7. The role, responsibility, organization, structure,  
12 geographic regions and governance of local school districts;

14 8. Increasing consolidation by creating new school  
16 administrative districts;

18 9. Incentives for formation of new school administrative  
20 districts and disincentives for dissolution of districts;

22 10. Changes in the rating system for school construction  
24 that might encourage consolidation;

26 11. Incentives for regional resource sharing, including  
28 joint use of faculty for teaching fine arts, language, special  
30 education and other subjects;

32 12. Incentives for use of school space for health and  
34 social services to preschool students and students in  
36 kindergarten to grade 12 and their families and for use of  
38 schools as year-round community centers;

40 13. Elimination of current mandates and regulatory  
42 requirements;

44 14. Alternatives for teacher certification; and

46 15. The length of the school year and the structure of the  
48 school day; and be it further

50 **Sec. 3. Membership. Resolved:** That the coalition, for the  
52 purposes of this resolve, shall broaden its membership to include  
representatives of low-income groups and other groups with  
special needs; and be it further

**Sec 4. Report. Resolved:** That the coalition shall report its  
findings, together with any legislative recommendations, to the  
Joint Standing Committee on Education and the Office of the  
Executive Director of the Legislative Council by December 15,  
1992.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

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## STATEMENT OF FACT

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This resolve is one of the measures submitted by the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring. The resolve directs the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education to study the governance and structure of the State's education system and report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

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