

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1168

S.P. 349

In Senate, February 20, 1997

Resolve, to Reorganize the University of Maine System.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of York.
Cosponsored by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot, Representative: JOYNER of Hollis.

2 **Sec. 1. University of Maine System; reorganization of governance**
3 **and coordination structure. Resolved:** That the governance and
4 coordination structure of the University of Maine System is
5 reorganized. The reorganization is as follows.

6 1. The existing Board of Trustees of the University of
7 Maine System is replaced by a coordinating board. The
8 Coordinating Board of the University of Maine System, referred to
9 in this resolve as the "coordinating board," has the same number
10 and composition of members and those members are appointed in the
11 same manner as the current board of trustees.

12 2. Each of the 7 campuses of the University of Maine System
13 has its own board of trustees consisting of 12 members appointed
14 by the Governor.

15 3. The current chancellor and campus presidents are
16 retained.

17 4. The coordinating board has final budget authority for
18 the University of Maine System and the board of trustees of each
19 campus shall make recommendations regarding the university budget.

20 5. The board of trustees of each campus has policy
21 authority in all other areas of decision making regarding the
22 academic and administrative affairs of the campus, subject to the
23 final approval of the coordinating board.

24 6. The board of trustees of each campus shall also support
25 fund-raising efforts to sustain and increase the endowment of the
26 campus; and be it further

27 **Sec. 2. Legislative Council; draft legislation to reorganize the**
28 **governance structure of the system. Resolved:** That the Legislative
29 Council shall direct the Legislature's nonpartisan staff to draft
30 legislation that may revise provisions of the charter of the
31 University of Maine System and the Maine Revised Statutes as
32 necessary to accomplish the reorganization of the governance
33 structure; and be it further

34 **Sec. 3. Office of the chancellor; assistance. Resolved:** That upon
35 request, the staff of the office of the Chancellor of the
36 University of Maine System, the Department of Education, the
37 State Board of Education and the Joint Standing Committee on
38 Education shall provide assistance to the staff of the
39 Legislative Council in preparing legislation; and be it further

40 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That the Executive Director of the
41 Legislative Council shall provide draft legislation to the
42 Legislative Council by December 1, 1997.

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SUMMARY

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6 The reorganization of the governance and coordination
8 structure of the University of Maine System is a significant
10 public policy concern for the State. A policy-making arrangement
12 that achieves the proper balance between the common system-wide
14 needs of the University of Maine System and the distinct needs of
16 the individual campuses is a critical factor in providing
18 effective and efficient public higher education for the State and
 the people of Maine. This resolve requires the Legislative
 Council with the assistance from the Office of the Chancellor of
 the University of Maine System, the Department of Education, the
 State Board of Education and the Joint Standing Committee on
 Education to draft legislation that reorganizes the governance
 and coordination structure of the University of Maine System by
 replacing the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System
 with a coordinating board and 7 campus boards of trustees.