

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

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Legislative Document

No. 2519

S.P. 973

In Senate, January 24, 2000

**Resolve, to Improve Access to Technical Education and Ensure a Skilled Work Force.**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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 President LAWRENCE of York.  
Cosponsored by Speaker ROWE of Portland and  
Senators: CASSIDY of Washington, MICHAUD of Penobscot, Representatives: BERRY of  
Livermore, CAMPBELL of Holden, KNEELAND of Easton, MITCHELL of Vassalboro,  
MURPHY of Kennebunk, SAXL of Portland.

2 **Preamble.** **Whereas,** studies consistently show that the  
economic prosperity of citizens in the State is tied directly to  
their level of education; and

4  
6 **Whereas,** studies consistently show that the State must  
graduate substantially more college students in order to compete  
in the new international and technical economy; and

8  
10 **Whereas,** the State currently has one of the lowest higher  
education enrollment rates in the country, ranking 47th in the  
percentage of citizens enrolled in higher education; and

12  
14 **Whereas,** asynchronous and synchronous distance education  
over the Internet is a very effective way to deliver college  
courses to the State's people, especially those who work  
full-time and live in rural areas; and

16  
18 **Whereas,** it is critical to make investments that will enable  
the State's citizens to access their college education over fast,  
reliable and cost-effective technology; now, therefore, be it

20  
22 **Sec. 1. Long-term access to technical colleges. Resolved:** That, to  
ensure that affordable access to quality higher education is  
sustained, the Maine Technical College System shall attempt to  
enroll 1,000 newly matriculated students in each of the next  
succeeding biennia after the effective date of this resolve until  
such time as the technical colleges cumulatively matriculate  
10,000 students, and the Legislature intends to continue to  
appropriate and allocate the necessary funds to the Maine  
Technical College System; and be it further

24  
26  
28  
30  
32 **Sec. 2. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are  
appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of  
this resolve.

34  
36 **2000-01**

38 **MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

40 **Maine Technical College System -**  
42 **Board of Trustees**

44 All Other \$500,000

46 Provides \$500,000 to increase immediate  
access to college by enabling the technical  
colleges to enroll 250 new students.

48  
50 **Maine Technical College System -**  
**Board of Trustees**

2	All Other	2,000,000
4	Provides \$650,000 to increase access to	
6	college by enabling the technical colleges	
8	to offer more asynchronous and synchronous	
10	courses over the Internet and provides	
12	\$1,350,000 to improve access to, and the	
14	quality of, technical college education by	
16	investing in asynchronous transfer mode	
18	technology that will substantially increase	
20	speed and capacity of the Maine Technical	
22	College System's information technology	
24	system for students to research and take	
26	courses over the Internet.	
28	<b>MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM</b>	
30	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$2,500,000</u>

**SUMMARY**

22           The purpose of this bill is to increase access to the Maine  
24 Technical College System. The first part of the bill provides  
26 funding to add 250 additional students systemwide beginning in  
the fall of 2000.

28           The 2nd part of the bill addresses the Maine Technical  
30 College System's need to provide students with the ability to  
32 take courses and do research over the Internet. The bill  
34 provides funding to migrate to Asynchronous Transfer Mode, or  
36 ATM, delivery that will provide greater speed and access by  
students to the Internet. In addition, this bill provides  
funding to develop curriculum in all areas of study for courses  
to be taught via web-based delivery, as well as the training of  
faculty in the use of web-based delivery.