

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 2, 2002
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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

Legislative Document

No. 2043

S.P. 733

In Senate, January 2, 2002

Resolve, to Study School Administrative Unit Organization in Maine.

Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered
printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela L. Cahill".

PAMELA L. CAHILL
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative RICHARD of Madison.

2 **Sec. 1. Study group established. Resolved:** That the Department
of Education and the State Board of Education shall convene a
4 study group to develop recommendations for state actions that
would provide adequate instructional opportunities for all
6 students to achieve the State's learning results while also
ensuring a high level of operational efficiency; and be it further

8 **Sec. 2. Study group membership. Resolved:** That the
Commissioner of Education and the Chair of the State Board of
10 Education shall jointly appoint cochairs and members of the study
group. The membership of the study group includes but is not
12 limited to 2 superintendents, 2 school board members, 2 elected
or appointed municipal members, 2 members of the general public,
14 one member of the Department of Education, one member of the
State Board of Education, one teacher and one principal; and be
16 it further

18 **Sec. 3. Study group duties. Resolved:** That the study group
shall consider issues and make recommendations related to
20 providing the organizational structure and functions that can
provide adequate instructional opportunities for all students to
22 achieve the State's learning results while also ensuring a high
level of operational efficiency. In accomplishing its duties,
24 the study group shall:

26 1. Research the history of regionalization in the State by
the formation of districts and participation in regional
28 collaboratives, including but not limited to implementation of
the Sinclair Act, Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter
30 103, subchapters I and II. This history must consider
demographic data of school administrative units and of regional
32 collaboratives, their organizational structures and functions and
how key decisions are made. The history must also characterize
34 the instructional opportunities and operational efficiencies that
are associated with different types of school units and regional
36 collaboratives;

38 2. Investigate other research regarding school
administrative units and regional collaboratives in other states
40 and identify findings that may be applicable in the State; and

42 3. Recommend incentives that the State could provide that
would serve to promote school administrative units that have the
44 organizational characteristics that can be demonstrated to
support high levels of student outcomes and efficient use of
46 resources and to maintain school administrative units that are
already exhibiting these organizational characteristics. These
48 incentives may include, but are not limited to, receipt of higher
amounts of general purpose aid for local schools and preferential

2 treatment in determining eligibility for capital funds for school
3 construction, renovation or transportation.

4 In performing its duties, the study group shall review the
5 findings and recommendations of other research, including but not
6 limited to previous studies and reports by the Department of
7 Education, the State Board of Education and the Maine Education
8 Policy Research Institute. The study group shall also consider
9 the school governance recommendations contained in "Keeping
10 Promises: Honoring Our Commitment to Educational Equity," the
11 Final Report of the Committee to Study Organizational and Tax
12 Issues in Public Schools, commonly referred to as the "Rosser
13 Report," issued February 1995, including but not limited to the
14 committee's recommendations regarding cooperative agreements,
15 consolidation, school unions, school administrative unit
16 cost-sharing and withdrawals from a school administrative unit;
17 and be it further

18
19 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That the study group shall submit a
20 preliminary report to the joint standing committee of the
21 Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January
22 31, 2003 and a final report by January 20, 2004. The final
23 report must summarize all findings and provide specific
24 recommendations made pursuant to section 3 of this resolve,
25 including any proposed legislation to implement these
26 recommendations; and be it further

27
28 **Sec. 5. Staffing. Resolved:** That staffing must be jointly
29 provided by the State Board of Education and the Department of
30 Education. The study group may request research and data
31 analysis from the Executive Department, State Planning Office and
32 the Maine Education Policy Research Institute.

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35 SUMMARY

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37 This resolve creates a study group to study school
38 administrative unit organization in the State. The study group
39 shall study the history of formation of districts and
40 participation in regional collaboratives in the State and
41 research in other states that may be applicable in the State.
42 The study group shall recommend incentives that might be used in
43 the State to promote organizational characteristics that can be
44 demonstrated to support high levels of student outcomes and
45 efficient use of resources and to maintain school administrative
46 units that already exhibit these organizational characteristics.
47 The study group shall submit a preliminary report to the joint
48 standing committee of the Legislative having jurisdiction over
49 education matters by January 31, 2003 and a final report by
50 January 20, 2004.