

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

Legislative Document

No. 2102

S.P. 767

In Senate, February 7, 2002

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon
Commission on Postsecondary Educational Attainment.**

Reported by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot for the Blue Ribbon Commission on Postsecondary Educational Attainment pursuant to Resolve 2001, chapter 66, section 8.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

PAMELA L. CAHILL
Secretary of the Senate

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§10-B** is enacted to read:

4 **10-B.** Maine Higher Legislative 20-A MRSA
6 Education Educational Per Diem §10401
8 Attainment for
 Council Legislators

10 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA c. 406** is enacted to read:

12 CHAPTER 406

14 MAINE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL
 ATTAINMENT COUNCIL

16 §10401. Maine Higher Educational Attainment Council established

18 The Maine Higher Educational Attainment Council, referred to
20 in this chapter as the "council," is established to provide a
22 permanent voice in support of higher education, to create a
24 statewide vision for higher educational attainment and to
develop, maintain and evaluate implementation of a long-term plan
for higher educational attainment in the State.

26 1. Membership. The council consists of 16 members. The
28 Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
30 House of Representatives shall jointly appoint the following 16
members, 2 of whom must be designated to serve as cochairs of the
council:

32 A. Twelve members collectively having a broad range of
34 interests, including, but not limited to, higher education,
kindergarten to grade 12 education, business and labor; and

36 B. Four members of the Legislature with a demonstrated
38 interest in higher education.

40 One member of the council must be a member of a statewide
association of independent colleges.

42 2. Appointments. Members appointed to the council serve
44 3-year terms except the terms of the initially appointed members
must be staggered: five of the initial appointees serve for one
46 year, 5 serve for 2 years and 6 serve for 3 years. The 2 members
chosen as cochairs of the council serve for a 3-year term.

48 3. Quorum. Nine members of the council constitute a quorum.

2 4. Compensation. Members of the council are not entitled
3 to compensation for their services, except for those members of
4 the Legislature appointed to the council, who receive the
5 legislative per diem.

6 **§10402. Powers and duties**

7 1. Develop long-term plan for increasing level of
8 educational attainment in State. The council shall:

9 A. Develop and recommend a long-term plan, goals,
10 benchmarks and alternative strategies for increasing the
11 level of educational attainment in the State;

12 B. Monitor progress in accomplishing the long-term plan's
13 vision, goals and benchmarks;

14 C. Develop a recommended plan of action to implement the
15 recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on
16 Postsecondary Educational Attainment established pursuant to
17 Resolve 2001, chapter 66; and

18 D. Recommend changes in the long-term plan to reflect newly
19 identified education needs within the State.

20 2. Council procedures. The council shall use the following
21 guidelines when developing the long-term plan described in
22 subsection 1.

23 A. The process must be continuous, with a multiyear
24 planning horizon. It must include clear authority for
25 monitoring and evaluating progress in evaluating the
26 long-term plan on a regular basis.

27 B. The long-term plan must have a strategic focus and
28 measurable outcomes, with clear goal-setting and performance
29 indicators.

30 C. The council may appoint working groups and advisory
31 committees as necessary, representing key concerned parties,
32 to accomplish the goals outlined in this section.

33 D. The process must be statewide in scope, using available
34 technology to ensure that all areas of the State have access
35 to the work of the council.

36 E. Preparation and maintenance of the long-term plan must
37 be through a public and private partnership approach that is
38 objective and nonpartisan.

2 3. Long-term plan contents. The long-term plan developed by
the council under this section must consist of:

4 A. A process for improving educational attainment within
6 the State that demonstrates a shared commitment to achieving
8 that end and a recognition that new forms of cooperation
10 among public and private institutions of higher education,
 kindergarten to grade 12 education, State Government and the
 wider community at large are required to achieve the plan's
 goals;

12 B. A strategy for implementing the recommendations of the
14 Blue Ribbon Commission on Postsecondary Educational
 Attainment established pursuant to Resolve 2001, chapter 66;

16 C. Benchmarks for accomplishing the long-term plan that are
18 specific and quantifiable performance indicators against
 which each of the goals that have been set forth to
 accomplish the vision can be measured;

20 D. Alternative strategies to accomplish the benchmarks
22 based upon the best practices in this State, other states
24 and other countries; and

26 E. A strategy for improving educational attainment that is
28 not limited to traditional baccalaureate programs. The
30 long-term plan must include consideration of improving the
32 academic and career preparation of all kindergarten to grade
34 12 students, increasing workforce training and retraining
 programs, removing financial and other barriers to
 educational attainment and increasing the capacity of all
 types of postsecondary educational programs to meet the
 educational needs of citizens of this State.

36 4. Fiscal matters. The responsibility for funding the
38 council must be shared equally between government and the private
40 sector. The Maine Development Foundation shall serve as the
42 council's fiscal agent, providing regular financial reports to
 the council on funds received and expended and an annual audit.
 The Maine Development Foundation shall seek funds and accept
 gifts to support the council's objectives.

44 5. Staff support. The Maine Development Foundation shall
provide staff support to fulfill the requirements of this section.

46 6. Report. Beginning in January 2003, the council shall
48 report annually to the Legislature and the joint standing
50 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education
 matters. The council shall report on implementation of its
 long-term plan and recommended changes to the long-term plan.

2 **Sec. 3. Initial members.** The initial members of the Maine
Higher Educational Attainment Council established in the Maine
4 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10401 must be appointed by
September 1, 2002.

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SUMMARY

10 This bill is reported by the Blue Ribbon Commission on
Postsecondary Educational Attainment pursuant to Resolve 2001,
12 chapter 66, section 8. The bill establishes the Maine Higher
Educational Attainment Council to develop a long-term plan for
14 increasing the level of educational attainment in the State and
to provide a unified voice for higher education in the State.
16 The council is a 16-member body appointed jointly by the
Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
18 House. The council is to be equally funded by government and the
private sector. It will report to the Legislature and the joint
20 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
education matters annually.

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