

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 425

H.P. 333

House of Representatives, February 4, 2003

Resolve, To Prepare Maine's Students for Active Citizenship

(EMERGENCY)

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CUMMINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and
Representative: PINGREE of North Haven, Senator: CATHCART of Penobscot.

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

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6 **Whereas,** the people of the State of Maine have affirmed the
importance of sustaining democracy through the enactment of the
system of learning results, which explicitly requires that
8 students recognize the power of personal participation skills to
affect community; and

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12 **Whereas,** this resolve establishes the Commission to Study
the Scope and Quality of Citizenship Education; and

14 **Whereas,** this resolve is necessary as an emergency measure
to afford adequate time for the issues to be appropriately
16 addressed by the commission; and

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

24 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission
to Study the Scope and Quality of Citizenship Education, referred
26 to in this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it
further

28 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
30 consists of members appointed as follows:

32 1. Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President
of the Senate;

34 2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed
36 by the Speaker of the House; and

38 3. Ten members appointed by the Governor as follows:

40 A. One member who serves as a school administrative
district superintendent or the principal of a public
42 school;

44 B. One representative of the Department of Education;

46 C. One representative of the Maine Chamber of
Commerce;

48 D. One educator with experience in civic education
50 service learning and related areas;

- 2 E. One dean of students from a college or university;
- 4 F. Two students enrolled in and attending high school;
- 6 G. Two students enrolled in and attending college; and
- 8 H. One representative of the nonprofit education
sector in the State; and be it further

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Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member
12 is the Senate chair of the commission and the first named House
of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission;
14 and be it further

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Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That
all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
18 effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall
notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all
20 appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after
appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the
22 first meeting of the commission; and be it further

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Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall examine
the following:

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1. The extent to which citizenship education, including
28 service learning, is currently included in the visions, missions,
values and practices of Maine school administrative districts and
30 institutions of higher education;

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2. The extent to which existing preservice and in-service
professional development programs for educators address
34 citizenship education;

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3. National models for educational continua that cover
preschool through college with the potential for preparing Maine
38 students to be active and engaged citizens; and

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4. Models for involving students and giving them a voice in
the governance of our institutions and providing opportunities
42 for student engagement and leadership; and be it further

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Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That, upon approval of the
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
46 shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and
be it further

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Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved: That the legislative members of the commission are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at meetings of the commission. Public members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature no later than December 3, 2003. The commission is authorized to introduce legislation related to its report to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature; and be it further

Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved: That, if the commission requires a limited extension of time to complete its study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant an extension; and be it further

Sec. 10. Commission budget. Resolved: That the chairs of the commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not incur expenses that would result in the commission exceeding its approved budget.

Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council or the executive director's designee shall promptly provide the commission chairs and staff with a status report on the study budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

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

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Commission to Study the Scope and Quality of Citizenship Education.