

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1279

H.P. 876

House of Representatives, March 15, 2005

Resolve, To Study Improving the Affordability and Predictability of College Tuition for Maine Students

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FARRINGTON of Gorham.
Cosponsored by Senator SCHNEIDER of Penobscot and
Representatives: BARSTOW of Gorham, BLISS of South Portland, CAIN of Orono,
SAVIELLO of Wilton, SCHATZ of Blue Hill.

Sec. 1. University of Maine System to study tuition charges for resident students. Resolved:

That the University of Maine System shall study the feasibility of freezing tuition at the amount charged for the first year for a resident student who first enrolls as an undergraduate student for the 3 following consecutive years, unless the student enrolls in a 5-year degree program, in which case for the 4 following consecutive years. The study must consider exemptions from the consecutive-year requirement for a student who must leave the University of Maine System for up to 2 years for reasons including military obligations or a family crisis. The study must also consider the establishment of a committee on each campus of the University of Maine System to determine whether a student meets the requirements of an exception considered by the study and whether the committee should have discretion in granting exceptions on a case-by-case basis outside of the exceptions recommended by the study; and be it further

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:

That the University of Maine System shall submit a report no later than December 7, 2005 that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. After receipt and review of the report, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the University of Maine System to study the feasibility of freezing tuition for newly enrolled resident undergraduate students at the amount of tuition charged for the first year for those students. The resolve also directs the University of Maine System to study exceptions to the consecutive-year requirement and the establishment of a committee at each university campus to determine whether a student meets the requirements of an exception to the consecutive-year requirement.