

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 947

S.P. 298

March 1, 2007

Resolve, To Prepare Students for Success in the Twenty-first Century

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 Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator BOWMAN of York, Representative MAKAS of Lewiston and
Senator: TURNER of Cumberland, Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, WAGNER of
Lewiston.

1 **Sec. 1. Bipartisan School Redistricting Panel established. Resolved:** That
2 the Bipartisan School Redistricting Panel, referred to in this section as "the panel," is
3 established. The membership and duties of the panel consist of the following.

4 1. The panel consists of 11 members appointed as follows:

5 A. One registered member of the political party holding the largest number of seats
6 in the Legislature, appointed by the Governor;

7 B. One registered member of the political party holding the 2nd largest number of
8 seats in the Legislature, appointed by the Governor;

9 C. One registered member of the political party holding the largest number of seats
10 in the Legislature, appointed by the President of the Senate;

11 D. One registered member of the political party holding the 2nd largest number of
12 seats in the Legislature, appointed by the President of the Senate;

13 E. One registered member of the political party holding the largest number of seats
14 in the Legislature, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

15 F. One registered member of the political party holding the 2nd largest number of
16 seats in the Legislature, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

17 G. One member of the State Board of Education, appointed by the Chair of the State
18 Board of Education;

19 H. One member representing the Maine Municipal Association;

20 I. Two members of the Maine School Management Association; and

21 J. One Maine Teacher of the Year, appointed by the Maine Education Association.

22 2. The first-named registered member of the political party holding the largest
23 number of seats in the Legislature and the first-named registered member of the political
24 party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature are the chairs of the
25 panel.

26 3. All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date
27 of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the
28 Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after
29 appointment of all members, the chairs of the panel shall call and convene the first
30 meeting of the panel.

31 4. The panel shall redraw the boundaries of the State's school administrative units so
32 that each unit serves between 3,000 and 4,000 students while keeping intact school
33 administrative units that currently serve at least 3,000 students and giving priority to
34 retaining community integrity, current school administrative unit integrity and
35 transportation issues.

36 5. The Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the panel.

37 6. A legislative member of the panel is entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as
38 defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel

1 and other necessary expenses related to the member's attendance at authorized meetings
2 of the panel. Public members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other
3 entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses
4 and, upon a demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per
5 diem for their attendance at authorized meetings of the panel.

6 7. No later than December 5, 2007, the panel shall submit a report that includes its
7 findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing
8 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The panel is authorized to introduce
9 legislation related to its report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature at
10 the time of submission of its report. The Legislature intends that the school redistricting
11 plan submitted to it by the panel pursuant to this section become law in substantively the
12 same form as it is submitted.

13 8. If the panel requires a limited extension of time to complete its study and make its
14 report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant an extension.

15 9. The chairs of the panel, with assistance from the panel staff, shall administer the
16 panel's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the panel shall present a work plan
17 and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The panel may not incur
18 expenses that would result in the panel's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request
19 from the panel, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide
20 the panel chairs and staff with a status report on the panel budget, expenditures incurred
21 and paid and available funds; and be it further

22 **Sec. 2. Department of Education to create student investment account**
23 **program. Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall develop a student
24 investment account program, referred to in this section as "the program," for safe and
25 cost-effective investment accounts for students in the State. Under the program, the
26 department shall establish an investment account upon the birth of every child in the State
27 and shall provide an initial investment of \$200 in each account. Proceeds of accounts
28 created under the program are payable to residents of the State for postsecondary
29 education undertaken at institutions of higher learning located in the State. The
30 Department of Education shall submit the program in the form of legislation to the
31 Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature no later than December 5, 2007; and be
32 it further

33 **Sec. 3. Department of Education to create postsecondary tuition**
34 **assistance program. Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall develop a
35 postsecondary tuition assistance program, referred to in this section as "the program," that
36 provides a graduate of an approved secondary school in the State who is admitted to a
37 postsecondary institution in the State that offers an associate degree or bachelor's degree
38 with an amount equaling 50% of the tuition for 2 years of the average tuition of the
39 Maine Community College System if the graduate demonstrates financial need. The
40 department shall establish criteria to demonstrate financial need for purposes of this
41 section. The program must provide that a graduate under the program who elects to
42 pursue teacher certification and commits to teaching in the State for 3 years after
43 graduation is eligible to receive an additional amount equaling 50% of the average tuition

1 of the Maine Community College System for the graduate's junior and senior year at the
2 postsecondary institution in the State. The program may also include other forms of
3 financial aid. The Department of Education shall submit the program in the form of
4 legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature no later than
5 December 5, 2007; and be it further

6 **Sec. 4. Department of Education and University of Maine System to offer**
7 **leadership training institutes. Resolved:** That the Department of Education and
8 the University of Maine System shall jointly offer leadership training institutes for
9 teachers and school administrators in the State. The institutes must focus on the skills of
10 change agency and strategic planning and the necessary background in organizational,
11 human resource and financial management to meet the challenges of the future. The
12 teachers and administrators shall attend institutes in groups called cohorts. A cohort
13 under this section must gather for a week in each of 2 succeeding summers to perform
14 follow-up work on real leadership issues facing schools in Maine. The Department of
15 Education shall adopt rules that require a school administrator to participate in an institute
16 created under this section every 5 years as a condition of recertification under the Maine
17 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 502; and be it further

18 **Sec. 5. School administrative unit plan for targeted funds to include**
19 **wireless devices for students. Resolved:** That a school administrative unit plan for
20 targeted funds pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671,
21 subsection 7 must provide that each student from 9th grade to 12th grade in that school
22 administrative unit receives an individual wireless device that the student may take home
23 every day and have for use during a summer vacation; and be it further

24 **Sec. 6. Rules. Resolved:** That the Department of Education may adopt rules to
25 carry out the purposes of this resolve. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major
26 substantive rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
27 2-A.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This resolve:

30 1. Creates the Bipartisan School Redistricting Panel to redraw school administrative
31 units to eliminate all units that serve under 3,000 students;

32 2. Directs the Department of Education to create a student investment account
33 program that creates investment accounts for each child born in the State for use by
34 residents for postsecondary education at institutions of higher learning located in the State
35 and endows each account with \$200;

36 3. Directs the Department of Education to create a tuition assistance program in
37 which each graduating high school student who demonstrates financial need and is
38 accepted into an associate's or bachelor's program in a postsecondary institution in the
39 State will receive an amount equal to 50% of the average tuition for 2 years at the Maine
40 Community College System, and those students pursuing teaching certificates and

1 committing to teaching in the State for 3 years after graduation will receive an additional
2 50% of the average tuition for 2 years at the Maine Community College System for their
3 junior and senior years;

4 4. Directs the Department of Education and the University of Maine System to
5 administer leadership training institutes for teachers and school administrators and
6 requires school administrators to attend the institute every 5 years as a requirement for
7 recertification; and

8 5. Directs that school administrative units provide for individual wireless devices for
9 9th to 12th graders as part of their plans submitted to receive targeted funds for
10 technology.