

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 97

H.P. 81

House of Representatives, January 12, 2009

**Resolve, Directing the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine System and the Department of Education To Develop a Plan To Enable High School Students To Achieve a Seamless Transition to Higher Education**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRYANT of Windham.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRYANT of Oxford and  
Representatives: FLAHERTY of Scarborough, MAZUREK of Rockland, PETERSON of Rumford, STUCKEY of Portland, TREAT of Hallowell, WATSON of Bath, WEBSTER of Freeport.

1           **Sec. 1. Review and assessment. Resolved:** That the Maine Community  
2 College System, the University of Maine System and the Department of Education,  
3 referred to in this resolve as "the review panel," shall collaboratively conduct a review  
4 and assessment of the opportunities available to high school students in the State to enroll  
5 in college courses at public higher education institutions in the State and other initiatives  
6 established to support high school students in their transition from high school to higher  
7 education. The review panel shall develop a plan to enable high school students,  
8 including youth between 16 years of age and 20 years of age who are enrolled in an adult  
9 education program to prepare for a Maine high school equivalency diploma, to achieve a  
10 seamless transition to public higher education institutions in the State. The review panel  
11 shall gather data on high school student enrollment in college courses at public higher  
12 education institutions in the State, including the retention rate for students who were  
13 enrolled in college courses in high school before enrolling at a public higher education  
14 institution in the State, and shall document state and public higher education institution  
15 spending on high school student enrollment and other transition initiatives. The review  
16 panel shall consider options for optimizing the range of high school student enrollment  
17 and other transition initiatives available to high school students in the State, including,  
18 but not limited to:

19           1. The postsecondary enrollment options available to eligible high school students as  
20 set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 208-A;

21           2. The "Early College for ME" initiative established by the Maine Community  
22 College System, which provides scholarship and academic support services for eligible  
23 high school students;

24           3. The "AdvantageU" guaranteed admission program established by the Maine  
25 Community College System and the University of Maine System, which provides Maine  
26 Community College System students graduating with an Associate in Arts degree in  
27 Liberal Studies guaranteed admission to any institution of the University of Maine  
28 System;

29           4. Dual or concurrent college enrollment models in other states or countries that  
30 permit high school students to simultaneously complete their high school courses and  
31 begin their college coursework;

32           5. The establishment of an entrance examination or a student placement test, such as  
33 the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACCUPLACER placement test, for high school students  
34 who have completed their sophomore year that would be used to determine if the students  
35 are academically prepared to participate in postsecondary enrollment options or if  
36 developmental classes and support services would be beneficial before the students  
37 engage in college-level coursework;

38           6. The college transition courses available through adult education programs that are  
39 eligible for state subsidy as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter  
40 315 and the adult education college transition sites established through the Maine College  
41 Transition Program by adult education programs, the Maine Community College System,

1 the University of Maine System, the Maine Compact for Higher Education, the  
2 MELMAC Education Foundation and the Maine Adult Education Association; and

3 7. The financial incentives and benefits available to eligible residents of the State  
4 through the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program, as established by  
5 Public Law 2007, chapter 469, to ensure that high school students who participate in  
6 postsecondary enrollment and transition initiatives are also eligible for the financial  
7 benefits of this program; and be it further

8 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the review panel shall present its findings and  
9 the plan developed under section 1, including any suggested legislation, in a report to the  
10 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2010. The  
11 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit legislation  
12 based on the review panel report to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This resolve directs the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine  
15 System and the Department of Education to collaborate in a review and assessment of the  
16 opportunities available to high school students to enroll in college courses at public  
17 higher education institutions in the State and other initiatives established to support high  
18 school students in their transition from high school to higher education. The resolve  
19 directs the review panel to develop a plan to enable high school students, including youth  
20 between 16 years of age and 20 years of age who are enrolled in an adult education  
21 program to prepare for a Maine high school equivalency diploma, to achieve a seamless  
22 transition to public higher education institutions in the State. The review panel plan must  
23 be presented in a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural  
24 Affairs by January 15, 2010. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural  
25 Affairs may submit legislation based on the review panel report to the Second Regular  
26 Session of the 124th Legislature.