





124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 318

H.P. 254

House of Representatives, February 3, 2009

An Act Regarding Rockport College

(EMERGENCY)

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

Millicent. M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative WELSH of Rockport. Cosponsored by Senator RECTOR of Knox and Representatives: EATON of Sullivan, KRUGER of Thomaston, MAZUREK of Rockland, MILLER of Somerville, O'BRIEN of Lincolnville, Speaker PINGREE of North Haven, RICHARDSON of Warren.

- **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
- Whereas, authorization by the Legislature is required for any institution of higher education to confer academic, educational, literary or professional degrees, upon the recommendation of the State Board of Education; and
- 6 Whereas, Rockport College, which does business as Maine Media College, offers 7 professional certification and graduate education in the fields of photography, filmmaking 8 and video and multimedia and intends to offer a Master of Fine Arts degree and needs to 9 receive approval of degree-granting authority; and
- 10 Whereas, it is necessary for the Legislature to grant this authority in order that the 11 school may begin offering degrees for students currently enrolled in programs; and

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

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

17 Sec. 1. Degree. The school known as Rockport College is renamed Maine Media 18 College and is authorized to confer upon all who successfully complete its prescribed 19 course of study the degree of Master of Fine Arts as is usually conferred by like 20 institutions of higher learning.

21 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this 22 legislation takes effect when approved.

23 SUMMARY

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This bill renames Rockport College Maine Media College and authorizes it to confer the degree of Master of Fine Arts upon students in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10704 based on the recommendation of the State Board of Education. The bill is an emergency because the school needs the authorization to initiate the national accreditation process with the United States Department of Education in time for current students to be eligible for degrees.