

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 984

S.P. 367

In Senate, March 12, 2009

**Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Provide Greater
Cooperation and Coordination between the University of Maine
System and the Maine Community College System**

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 President MITCHELL of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative FLOOD of Winthrop and
Senator: ALFOND of Cumberland, Representatives: BLODGETT of Augusta, CROCKETT of
Augusta, LOVEJOY of Portland, NUTTING of Oakland.

1 **Sec. 1. Pilot program established. Resolved:** That the University of Southern
2 Maine and the University of Maine at Augusta shall develop a pilot program with
3 Southern Maine Community College and Kennebec Valley Community College,
4 respectively, to provide a process for attending the Maine Community College System to
5 earn an associate degree and going on to attend the University of Maine System to earn a
6 baccalaureate degree with a seamless transition of college credits towards the goal of
7 graduation. The pilot program must have students participating simultaneously with
8 specific degree programs at both the community college and the university, dependent
9 upon their agreement, to take a prescribed series of courses; and be it further

10 **Sec. 2. Courses. Resolved:** That the courses in the pilot program must include
11 prescribed courses in the major discipline, a set of general education courses and
12 acceptable electives, divided between the 2 institutions. Students must pass all courses
13 and maintain an agreed-upon grade average in the students' major to remain in the
14 program. The program must also include an alternative route for associate students with
15 some prior credits to participate; and be it further

16 **Sec. 3. Faculty. Resolved:** That the department chairs of the faculty from both
17 universities and the 2 community colleges shall:

18 1. Design the pilot program curricula and agree to accept all courses of the partner
19 institutions in the major as well as the general education courses. In coming to the
20 agreement to accept the courses, the department chairs shall consult with faculty at each
21 institution and review the current curricula, learning outcomes and assessments, tests and
22 department exams to ensure the equivalence of these courses between the 2 universities
23 and the 2 community colleges; and

24 2. Develop a fully transferable general education curriculum composed solely of
25 academic courses so that students may transfer from the community college system to the
26 university system with at least 60 credits of the required work toward a baccalaureate
27 degree. Elective credits may be offered to students for additional academic courses at the
28 community college. The chief academic officers of each institution shall oversee this
29 process and report to their presidents; and be it further

30 **Sec. 4. Goals. Resolved:** That the pilot program must be developed to be a
31 model for further collaboration between the participating colleges and universities in the
32 service of student success, retention and degree completion and to provide data for future
33 academic policy for all future student success; and be it further

34 **Sec. 5. Report. Resolved:** That the University of Maine System and the Maine
35 Community College System shall report to the joint standing committee of the
36 Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the completion and graduation
37 of the first participating class of students involved in the pilot program, with an
38 assessment and recommendations to the committee on the future of the program. The
39 joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill regarding the report during the
40 legislative session in which the report is submitted.

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SUMMARY

2 This resolve establishes a pilot program between the University of Maine System and
3 the Maine Community College System, more specifically between the University of
4 Southern Maine and Southern Maine Community College and between the University of
5 Maine at Augusta and Kennebec Valley Community College, to provide a seamless
6 process of going from an associate degree program at the community college onto a
7 baccalaureate degree program at the university. The pilot program will be established
8 after consultation with faculty from all 4 schools, along with a review of the majors at the
9 schools. The program will be composed of students who take prescribed courses along
10 with electives. After the first participating class graduates, the University of Maine
11 System and the Maine Community College System will report back to the joint standing
12 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on its assessment
13 of the program and any recommendations.