

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 422

H.P. 294

House of Representatives, February 14, 2013

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Franco-Americans

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and
Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, BEAULIEU of Auburn, CASAVANT of Biddeford,
DION of Portland, GILBERT of Jay, McCLELLAN of Raymond, WILLETTE of Mapleton,
Senator: LANGLEY of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10910** is enacted to read:

3 **§10910. Report on status of first-generation students**

4 By January 15, 2014, and annually thereafter, the trustees shall submit to the joint
5 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters a report
6 summarizing activities over the previous year of institutions of higher education in the
7 State intended to increase enrollment and graduation rates of first-generation college
8 students as defined by the trustees. The report must include data regarding enrollment of
9 first-generation students and educational outcomes, including graduation rates for
10 first-generation students compared to other students, and may make recommendations for
11 legislative action to increase graduation rates for first-generation students. The
12 committee may submit legislation to implement any recommendations of the trustees.

13 **Sec. 2. Working group to increase recruitment of first-generation college**
14 **students from Maine.** The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System shall
15 convene a working group, including, but not limited to, representatives of the Maine
16 Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy to study and develop a
17 long-term strategy to increase enrollment of first-generation college students who are
18 residents of Maine and to increase the graduation rate of first-generation college students
19 at Maine's postsecondary educational institutions. The working group shall invite the
20 participation of private postsecondary colleges and institutions when developing a
21 recruitment strategy.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill is in response to a recommendation of the Task Force on Franco-Americans.
24 This bill requires the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to establish a
25 working group including representatives of public and private institutions of higher
26 education in the State to study and develop a strategy to increase enrollment and
27 graduation rates for first-generation college students who are residents of the State. The
28 board is required to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
29 having jurisdiction over education matters on activities over the previous year by
30 institutions of higher education in the State to increase enrollment and graduation rates of
31 first-generation college students.