

ROFS			
1		L.D. 1703	
2	Date: 4/2/14	(Filing No. S- 437)	
3	EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS		
4	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.		
5	STATE OF MAINE		
6	SEN	SENATE	
7	126TH LEGISLATURE		
8	SECOND REGULAR SESSION		
9 10	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " $A$ " t Increase College Affordability and the Rate o	o S.P. 668, L.D. 1703, Bill, "An Act To f Degree Completion"	
11	Amend the bill by striking out the title and	d substituting the following:	
12 13	'Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To In Rate of Degree Completion'	ncrease College Affordability and the	
14	Amend the bill by striking out everything	after the title and inserting the following:	
15 16 17	'Sec. 1. Task force established. Re 353, the Task Force To Increase Colleg Completion, referred to in this resolve as "the		
18 19	Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 16 members appointed as follows:		
20 21	1. Three members of the Senate appoint members from each of the 2 parties holding th	ed by the President of the Senate, including ne largest number of seats in the Legislature;	
22 23 24	2. Four members of the House of Repre House, including members from each of the 2 in the Legislature;	esentatives appointed by the Speaker of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats	
25 26	3. The President of the Maine Comm designee;	nunity College System or the president's	
27	4. The Chancellor of the University of Ma	aine System or the chancellor's designee;	
28	5. The President of the Maine Maritime A	Academy or the president's designee;	
29 30	6. Three members chosen by the Presider the Maine Independent Colleges Association;	nt of the Senate from nominees supplied by	
31 32	7. Two members from organizations we one appointed by the President of the Senate a	ith experience administering student loans, nd one by the Speaker of the House; and	
33	8. The Commissioner of Education or the	commissioner's designee; and be it further	

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# **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 668, L.D. 1703

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Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate 2 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task 3 force; and be it further

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved: 4 That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this 5 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative 6 7 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, 8 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more 9 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been 10 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority 11 for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

12 Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall meet 5 times. The task force shall study issues associated with college affordability and degree completion and 13 14 develop a 10-year statewide economic and policy strategy. The methods the task force 15 shall consider include, but are not limited to, the following:

16 1. A scholarship at the University of Maine for the 2nd year of attendance provided to 17 students who agree to work in the State for a certain period of time following graduation;

18 2. Tuition guarantees that ensure that students will pay the same tuition for 2 or 4 19 years while attending one of the State's institutions of higher education; and

20 3. Simplifying and transitioning from the provision of tax credits for higher education 21 to the greater provision of state grants and other forms of financial aid for higher 22 education; and be it further

23 Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide 24 necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

25 Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 31, 2015, the task force 26 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested 27 legislation, for presentation to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature. The 28 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters 29 may submit a bill related to this report to the First Regular Session of the 127th 30 Legislature.'

#### **SUMMARY**

32 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve to establish 33 the Task Force To Increase College Affordability and the Rate of Degree Completion. 34 The task force is directed to study and make recommendations on issues associated with 35 college affordability and degree completion and develop a 10-year statewide economic 36 and policy strategy. The task force is required to submit a report by January 31, 2015 to 37 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education 38 matters. The report submitted by the task force must include findings, recommendations 39 and any suggested legislation. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having 40 jurisdiction over education matters may submit a bill related to this report to the First 41 Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE REOUIRED (See attached)

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



## **126th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

#### LD 1703

LR 2246(02)

#### An Act To Increase College Affordability and the Rate of Degree Completion

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A''( S- 48の) Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### **Fiscal Note**

Legislative Cost/Study

#### Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this task force are projected to be \$4,875 in fiscal year 2014-15. The Legislature's proposed budget includes \$10,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 for legislative studies. Whether that amount is sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs of providing staffing assistance to the study during the interim can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources.

#### **Fiscal Detail and Notes**

The additional costs associated with serving on the task force can be absorbed by the public higher education institutions and the Department of Education within the existing budgeted resources.