

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

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Legislative Document

No. 1746

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H.P. 1253

House of Representatives, January 23, 2014

### **An Act To Facilitate Informed Planning for Higher Education and Careers**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: JOHNSON of Greenville, KENT of Woolwich,  
KORNFIELD of Bangor, MAKER of Calais, Senators: CAIN of Penobscot, KATZ of  
Kennebec, MILLETT of Cumberland, VALENTINO of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§10-E** is enacted to read:

3 **10-E.**

4 <u>Education</u>	<u>State Education and</u>	<u>Expenses Only</u>	<u>20-A MRSA §12901</u>
5	<u>Employment</u>		
6	<u>Outcomes</u>		
7	<u>Commission</u>		

8 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§7-D** is enacted to read:

9 **7-D.**

10 <u>Education</u>	<u>Education and</u>	<u>Not Authorized</u>	<u>20-A MRSA §12902</u>
11	<u>Employment</u>		
12	<u>Outcomes Technical</u>		
13	<u>and Data Working</u>		
14	<u>Group</u>		

15 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA c. 437** is enacted to read:

16 **CHAPTER 437**

17 **STATE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES COMMISSION**

18 **§12901. State Education and Employment Outcomes Commission**

19 **1. Commission established.** The State Education and Employment Outcomes  
20 Commission, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 10-E and referred to in  
21 this chapter as "the commission," is established to develop procedures to maintain and  
22 disseminate information and data from the Department of Labor's educational outcome  
23 database, referred to in this chapter as "the database," on education results, program  
24 completion, graduation, credentials earned, loans and loan defaults and costs as well as  
25 employment and earnings outcomes for graduates of postsecondary educational  
26 institutions in the State over time.

27 **2. Membership.** The commission consists of 24 members appointed as follows:

28 **A. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:**

- 29 (1) Two members of the Senate, one from each of the 2 parties holding the
- 30 largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- 31 (2) A representative from the University of Maine System;
- 32 (3) A representative from a private postsecondary educational institution in the
- 33 State;

1                   (4) A representative from the Maine School Management Association or a  
2                   successor organization;

3                   (5) A person having experience in kindergarten to grade 12 education, school  
4                   counseling and student loan financing, economics or marketing; and

5                   (6) A person who is a student attending a secondary school or postsecondary  
6                   educational institution in the State;

7                   B. Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

8                   (1) Two members of the House of Representatives, one from each of the 2  
9                   parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

10                  (2) A representative from the Maine Community College System;

11                  (3) A representative from a private postsecondary educational institution in the  
12                  State;

13                  (4) A representative from an organization with expertise in state and national  
14                  higher education policy;

15                  (5) A person having experience in kindergarten to grade 12 education, school  
16                  counseling and student loan financing, economics or marketing; and

17                  (6) A person who is a student attending a secondary school or postsecondary  
18                  educational institution in the State;

19                  C. Seven members appointed by the Governor as follows:

20                  (1) A representative from the Maine Maritime Academy;

21                  (2) A representative from a private postsecondary educational institution in the  
22                  State;

23                  (3) A person having experience in kindergarten to grade 12 education, school  
24                  counseling and student loan financing, economics or marketing;

25                  (4) A representative from the Maine State Chamber of Commerce or a successor  
26                  organization;

27                  (5) A representative from a regional chamber of commerce;

28                  (6) A person with expertise in state and national higher education policy; and

29                  (7) A small business owner;

30                  D. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

31                  E. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee; and

32                  F. The administrator of the database or the administrator's designee.

33                  **3. Chairs.** The first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named  
34                  House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

35                  **4. Terms of appointment.** Nonlegislative members of the commission are  
36                  appointed for terms of 3 years and may serve beyond their designated terms until their

1 successors are appointed. Terms of appointment of Legislators coincide with their  
2 respective legislative terms of office.

3 **5. Staffing.** The Department of Education and the Department of Labor shall  
4 provide staff assistance to the commission.

5 **6. Duties.** The commission shall:

6 A. Develop procedures to maintain and disseminate information regarding the  
7 anticipated career lifetime earnings of graduates of postsecondary educational  
8 institutions in the State based on the database, their anticipated monthly cumulative  
9 student loan payments and the terms of their loans and available incentives;

10 B. Create procedures for the use of the information provided in the database by state  
11 agencies, higher education organizations that have partnerships with the commission,  
12 local school systems and the public;

13 C. Make recommendations regarding the design and content of a website jointly  
14 hosted by the Department of Education and the Department of Labor that provides  
15 maximum information to the public regarding higher education and employment;

16 D. Identify a viable long-term funding method to maintain the database;

17 E. Produce recommendations for the Department of Education on how to provide  
18 information to secondary school students who are making higher education decisions;

19 F. Address any issues that may arise from the use or impact of the database; and

20 G. Prepare annual work plans.

21 **7. Reports; legislation.** The commission shall report to both the joint standing  
22 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and the joint  
23 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters each year on  
24 the status of the database. The reports must include a description of where funding is  
25 coming from for the database and the sustainability of that funding, how the website  
26 under subsection 6, paragraph C is used, including by whom and how frequently they use  
27 it, and efforts to incorporate its use into secondary schools and any other issues the  
28 commission determines necessary. The commission may submit with the reports  
29 legislation required to implement its recommendations.

30 **§12902. Education and Employment Outcomes Technical and Data Working Group**

31 The Education and Employment Outcomes Technical and Data Working Group,  
32 established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 7-D and referred to in this chapter as  
33 "the group," advises the commission on matters related to this chapter.

34 **1. Membership; terms; meetings.** The group consists of 6 members appointed by  
35 the commission. The members include the administrator of the database or the  
36 administrator's designee, a representative of a statewide organization representing school  
37 guidance counselors, a representative of a statewide organization representing school  
38 principals, a representative of the University of Maine System, a representative of the  
39 Maine Community College System and a representative of a private postsecondary  
40 educational institution in the State.

1 The commission shall convene the first meeting of the group. The members shall elect a  
2 chair from the membership by majority vote of the membership at the first meeting of the  
3 group. The chair serves for the duration of that member's term unless a majority of the  
4 membership elects another chair. At the end of the chair's term as member, the  
5 membership shall elect a succeeding chair by majority vote of the membership. Members  
6 serve for a term of 3 years. The group shall meet semiannually to conduct business and  
7 may meet and report at other times as needed. A quorum consists of 4 members.

8 **2. Duties of group.** The group shall make recommendations to the commission  
9 regarding:

10 A. The operation and use of the database and the information the database contains;

11 B. The commission's duties regarding the website under section 12901, subsection 6,  
12 paragraph C and integration of the information on the website into the State's  
13 secondary schools;

14 C. Funding methods for the database;

15 D. Additional data for inclusion in the database; and

16 E. Any question or issue that the commission has charged the group with.

17 **Sec. 4. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
18 20-A, section 12901, subsection 4, terms of members of the State Education and  
19 Employment Outcomes Commission are as follows.

20 1. Of the initial nonlegislative members appointed by the President of the Senate, 2  
21 must be for terms of 3 years, 2 must be for terms of 2 years and one must be for a term of  
22 one year.

23 2. Of the initial nonlegislative members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
24 Representatives, 2 must be for terms of 3 years, 2 must be for terms of 2 years and one  
25 must be for a term of one year.

26 3. Of the initial gubernatorial appointments, 3 must be for terms of 3 years, 2 must  
27 be for terms of 2 years and 2 must be for terms of one year.

28 **Sec. 5. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
29 20-A, section 12902, subsection 1, 3 members of the Education and Employment  
30 Outcomes Technical and Data Working Group must serve for a term of 3 years, 2 must  
31 serve for a term of 2 years and one must serve for a term of one year.

## 32 SUMMARY

33 This bill establishes the State Education and Employment Outcomes Commission to  
34 develop procedures to maintain and disseminate information and data on education  
35 results, program completion, graduation, credentials earned, loans and loan defaults and  
36 costs as well as employment and earnings for graduates of postsecondary educational  
37 institutions in the State. The bill also establishes the Education and Employment  
38 Outcomes Technical and Data Working Group to make recommendations to the

1 commission regarding the operation and use of the Department of Labor's educational  
2 outcome database and the information the database contains, the duties of the commission  
3 regarding a website jointly hosted by the Department of Labor and the Department  
4 Education and integration of the information on the website into the State's secondary  
5 schools, funding methods for the database, additional data for inclusion in the database  
6 and any question or issue that the commission has charged the group with.