## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

**Legislative Document** 

No. 826

S.P. 259

In Senate, March 5, 2021

Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System To Study the Potential Effects of the State Adopting Atlantic Standard Time

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford. Cosponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland. **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** this resolve requires the University of Maine System to study and analyze the potential effects on the State's economy of the State adopting permanent Atlantic Standard Time and determine if that adoption will serve the convenience of commerce as required by the United States Department of Transportation; and

**Whereas,** the study is funded through private donations to the University of Maine System, and funding must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; 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, be it

- **Sec. 1. Permanent Atlantic Standard Time study and analysis. Resolved:** That the University of Maine System shall study and analyze the potential effects on the State's economy of the State adopting permanent Atlantic Standard Time and determine if that adoption will serve the convenience of commerce as required by the United States Department of Transportation. In conducting the study, the University of Maine System shall examine:
- 1. The current effects of the practice of setting clocks forward and backward, including but not limited to physical health, mental health and economic effects as determined by both scientific research and public opinion; and
- 2. Whether adopting permanent Atlantic Standard Time will negatively affect business shipping and receiving of goods and products; the ability of residents to receive important television and radio broadcasts and timely news and information; bus, passenger rail and airline services across time zones; residents who engage in work, schooling, recreation, health care or religious worship outside of the State's time zone; major elements of the State's economy; and any current federal, state or local plans for economic development.

Funding for the study must be through private donations to the University of Maine System.

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, by December 31, 2021, the University of Maine System shall submit a report, including suggested legislation, based on its study and analysis in section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. The committee is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

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

39 SUMMARY

This resolve directs the University of Maine System to study and analyze the potential effects on the State's economy of the State adopting permanent Atlantic Standard Time and determine if that adoption will serve the convenience of commerce as required by the

- United States Department of Transportation. The University of Maine System is required to fund the study through private donations and to submit a report with suggested legislation by December 31, 2021 to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.