## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

**Legislative Document** 

No. 989

S.P. 408

In Senate, March 2, 2023

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

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 Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representative: KESSLER of South Portland.

## **Sec. 1. Permanent Atlantic Standard Time study and analysis. Resolved:** That the University of Maine System shall, within available resources, study and analyze the potential effects on public health and the State's economy of the State's 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 businesses' 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, education, 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, and the University of Maine System is not required under this resolve to undertake work for which it does not have or has not received sufficient resources.

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, by December 6, 2023, 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 State and Local Government. The committee is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

25 SUMMARY

This resolve directs the University of Maine System to study and analyze the potential effects on public health and the State's economy of the State's 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 must conduct the study within available resources and submit a report with suggested legislation by December 6, 2023 to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.