

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/14/23

L D 1016
(Filing No H-543)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P 652, L.D 1016, "An Act to Support College Student Participation as Policy Interns for State Legislators"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following

'Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study a Legislative Internship Program'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following

'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study a Legislative Internship Program, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 12 members as follows

1 Three members of the Senate, one of whom sits on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, appointed by the President of the Senate, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,

2 Three members of the House of Representatives, one of whom sits on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, appointed by the Speaker of the House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,

3 The Executive Director of the Legislative Council, or the executive director's designee,

4 One member of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council's staff with responsibility for human resources matters,

5 Two postsecondary school students or alumni with internship experience with the Legislature, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House,

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 6 One member with internship coordination experience or a postsecondary school
 2 faculty member in the field of law, political science, public policy or government from a
 3 private university or college in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate, and

4 7 One member with internship coordination experience or a postsecondary school
 5 faculty member in the field of law, political science, public policy or government from the
 6 Maine Community College System, appointed by the Speaker of the House

7 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the Senate member from the Joint Standing
 8 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs is the Senate chair and the House of
 9 Representatives member from the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural
 10 Affairs is the House chair of the commission

11 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
 12 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
 13 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
 14 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
 15 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
 16 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
 17 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for
 18 the commission to meet and conduct its business

19 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study and develop a structure
 20 for an internship program to place a person attending an accredited institution of higher
 21 education in the State or a resident of the State who is a student at an accredited institution
 22 of higher education in another state with a Legislator to assist with policy work immediately
 23 before, during and immediately after a legislative session. The commission shall review
 24 other internship programs and develop recommendations, policies and procedures for an
 25 internship program in the Legislature that includes details on

- 26 1 The application and selection processes,
- 27 2 The method for Legislators to opt in to the internship program,
- 28 3 The method to match interns with Legislators,
- 29 4 Guidelines to ensure an equitable and inclusive application, selection and matching
 30 process,
- 31 5. The training to be provided to Legislators and interns,
- 32 6 The process to evaluate interns,
- 33 7 The process for interns to evaluate the internship program,
- 34 8 The appropriate rate of pay,
- 35 9 The cost to run the internship program, including necessary staff to administer the
 36 internship program;
- 37 10. The physical space and infrastructure needs for the internship program,
- 38 11 Security concerns,
- 39 12 The availability of private funding for the internship program, and
- 40 13 Any other matters the commission considers relevant

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Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than February 1, 2024, the commission shall submit a report to the Legislative Council that includes its findings and recommendations for an internship program, including a pilot internship program starting in the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively

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SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve The amendment creates the Commission to Study a Legislative Internship Program The commission has 12 members, including a Senate member and a member of the House of Representatives who sit on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and who serve as co-chairs of the commission The commission is required to study and develop a structure for an internship program matching postsecondary school students with members of the Legislature to assist members of the Legislature with the policy work of the Legislature The commission is required to submit a report to the Legislative Council no later than February 1, 2024 setting out recommendations for an internship program, including a pilot internship program starting in the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1016

LR 1616(02)

An Act to Support College Student Participation as Policy Interns for State Legislators

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A (543)"

Committee: State and Local Government

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$4,450 in fiscal year 2023-24. The Legislature's proposed budget for the 2024-2025 biennium includes \$14,500 in each of fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the costs of legislative studies, as well as \$2,234 in projected balances from fiscal year 2022-23 and \$36,777 of balances carried over from prior years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are 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

Additional costs to the Maine Community College System associated with having a representative serve on the commission can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.