

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1016

H.P. 652

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

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

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative OSHER of Orono.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RANA of Bangor,
ROEDER of Bangor, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, WARREN of Scarborough,
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§18**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 43, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **18. Out-of-state travel report.** To submit to the joint standing committee of the
5 Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs a quarterly report
6 on out-of-state travel activity of the Legislature. The report must be submitted within 15
7 days after the end of each quarter and must include, for each individual who has been
8 authorized to travel, the destination, purpose and cost by funding source of each trip; ~~and~~

9 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§19**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 43, §3, is amended to
10 read:

11 **19. Legislative information available through the Internet.** To make the following
12 information available through the Internet: legislative documents, committee hearing
13 schedules, work session schedules, status of legislation, voting records of Legislators, the
14 laws of Maine, study reports and reports of other study groups established by the
15 Legislature and any other information designated by the Legislative Council; and

16 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§20** is enacted to read:

17 **20. Policy interns.** To establish an internship program. The program must provide
18 for placement of policy interns, coordinated by the placement coordinator established under
19 Title 20-A, section 10911, with Legislators to assist the Legislators with their legislative
20 work. The program must provide an appropriate hourly wage to each policy intern for the
21 internship work. Under the program, policy interns may not work more than 10 hours in
22 any week. Under the program, a policy intern must either be a student at an accredited
23 institution of higher education in this State or be a resident of this State and a student at an
24 accredited institution of higher education in another state. No more than 185 policy interns
25 at any one time may be placed under the program.

26 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §10911** is enacted to read:

27 **§10911. Policy intern coordinator**

28 The university, in coordination with the Legislative Council, shall designate or
29 establish a coordinator within the university to oversee the placement of policy interns with
30 Legislators under the internship program established under Title 3, section 162, subsection
31 20.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill provides authority for the Legislative Council to establish an internship
34 program. The program must provide for the placement of policy interns with Legislators
35 to assist the Legislators with their legislative work. The program must also provide an
36 appropriate hourly wage to each policy intern for the internship work. Under the program,
37 policy interns may not work more than 10 hours in any week. Under the program, a policy
38 intern must either be a student at an accredited institution of higher education in this State
39 or be a resident of this State and a student at an accredited institution of higher education
40 in another state. No more than 185 policy interns at any one time may be placed under the
41 program.

1 The bill also directs the University of Maine System, in coordination with the
2 Legislative Council, to designate or establish a coordinator within the system to oversee
3 the placement of policy interns with Legislators under the internship program.