

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1264

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H.P. 812

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

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**Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public  
Policy on Higher Education**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

*Robert B. Hunt*

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.  
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and  
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, LYMAN of Livermore Falls,  
SAMPSON of Alfred, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Speaker TALBOT ROSS  
of Portland, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

1           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Update  
2 Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education, referred to in this resolve as "the commission,"  
3 is established.

4           **Sec. 2. Study group membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
5 353, the study group consists of 13 members, including:

6           1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, who serve  
7 on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, including one member  
8 of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the  
9 party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

10          2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
11 House, who serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,  
12 including 2 members of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and  
13 one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

14          3. One member with expertise in higher education policy issues representing a  
15 statewide education policy research institute, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16          4. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the  
17 Maine Community College System, appointed by the President of the Senate;

18          5. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the  
19 University of Maine System, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20          6. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine  
21 Maritime Academy, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

22          7. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;

23          8. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designee;

24          9. The President of the Maine Maritime Academy or the president's designee; and

25          10. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee.

26          In appointing members of the commission, the appointing authorities shall give  
27 consideration to race, gender, socioeconomic diversity and geographic diversity.

28           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
29 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the  
30 commission.

31           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
32 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
33 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
34 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,  
35 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the study group. If 30 days or more  
36 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been  
37 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for  
38 the study group to meet and conduct its business.

39           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall review all related laws and  
40 rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education, including but not limited to

1 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10902, and make recommendations for  
2 potential legislative changes.

3 In conducting its review, the commission shall analyze present and future goals,  
4 including but not limited to expanding access to affordable high-quality higher education  
5 to help students achieve postsecondary success in the 21st century.

6 To assist the commission in carrying out its review, the Department of Education, the  
7 University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine  
8 Maritime Academy each shall provide to the commission any data and information the  
9 commission considers relevant to its work.

10 At the discretion of the chairs, the commission may seek input from any students,  
11 faculty and staff in the State's public institutions of higher education, groups that have an  
12 interest in the State's public institutions of higher education and other stakeholders.

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

16 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2023, the commission  
17 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
18 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint  
19 standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session  
20 of the 131st Legislature.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This resolve establishes the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher  
23 Education to review all laws and rules pertaining to higher education in the State and  
24 addressing related public policy.