

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 154

In Senate, March 23, 1921.

Read, ordered placed on file and 500 copies printed. Sent down for concurrence.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Thombs of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE**

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

The special committee appointed by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of the Seventy-ninth Legislature, and Governor Carl E. Milliken, charged with the duty of investigating the desirability of enacting into law a measure introduced by Senator Walker of Somerset, entitled "An Act to establish the State University of Maine and to provide for its maintenance," and report by bill or otherwise,

Respectfully submits the following report:

The committee after investigation, hearings and meetings at Orono and Augusta, Maine, unanimously report that the measure referred to it for consideration ought not to pass.

That the investigation conducted by this committee developed the fact that questions had from time to time been raised in the Legislature of the state and in the public mind as to the relations of the University of Maine to the state as a state institution.

The committee is of the opinion that there ought not to be any question as to the status of the institution, particularly in view of an exhaustive legislative report made some years ago that held the institution was a state institution and in view of the attitude of the legislatures in the past that have made large appropriations from the public treasury for the maintenance of the institution, and the further fact that the State of Maine has title to the whole of the campus and real estate at Orono, Maine, on which the institution is located, with the exception of an insignificant parcel of real estate which is used for a coal pocket, and it should be further noted that the institution is placed under the direct management and control of a board of trustees appointed by the Governor of Maine.

Recognizing the desirability of continued unquestioned support of the state for the university, and that the future prosperity of the state rests with our boys and girls of today, whose proper training is of more importance than any other question which confronts us, realizing the wide and thorough training which our University of Maine places within the reach of every young man and young woman within our state, your committee in accordance with the spirit and provisions of the bill presented to the Seventy-ninth Legislature by Senator Walker, and to insure the fullest support and encouragement of the institution, respectfully recommend as follows:

First: That the Eightieth Legislature by appropriate action declare the University of Maine a state institution, at the same time properly guarding its corporate entity and privileges as a trustee of funds that it now holds for general and specific purposes, and such funds as it may from time to time receive from public and private sources for purposes of the university.

Second: That with a view to recognize the growing importance of the support and advice of the alumni of the University of Maine, appropriate legislative action be taken to increase the number of trustees that the alumni shall be entitled to on the board from one to three, and in the event it is deemed desirable to increase the board of trustees to a larger number than at present, that a proportionate number of trustees be selected from the alumni.

Third: That the superintendent of schools of the state shall by virtue of his office be a member ex-officio of the board of trustees.

February 10, 1921.

FRANK E. GUERNSEY, Chairman,
WILLIAM L. WALKER,
ORA GILPATRICK,
GEORGE W. THOMBS,
STACY C. LANPHER,
ELMER A. PATTEE.

Mr. C. E. Williams of Auburn, a member of the commission, did not concur in the foregoing, but did not feel like submitting a minority report.