

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - T H I R D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 244

H. P. 414

House of Representatives, January 29, 1947

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Payson of Union.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

RESOLVE, in Favor of Portland Junior College.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, there has developed throughout the state a situation of scarcity of college and secondary school facilities, due to the return of veterans of World War II for whom the federal government, under the G. I. Bill of Rights, so called, has committed itself to finance secondary and college education; and

Whereas, Portland University Extension Courses, Inc. has for many years been incorporated as a non-profit corporation and carried on an educational institution under the name of Portland Junior College; and

Whereas, during the early part of World War II it exerted its entire effort to military training until its program was taken over by the armed forces; and

Whereas, since the termination of hostilities it has maintained an educational program for veterans and is now providing educational training with inadequate facilities because of the number of students; and

Whereas, it has purchased land and buildings for immediate conversion but has inadequate funds to carry on the necessary work; and

Whereas, its buildings are now so situated that immediate renovation can be done in winter weather and enable the college to provide increased important facilities required particularly for veterans during this period of economic readjustment; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Portland Junior College; appropriation. Resolved: That the sum of \$100,000 be, and hereby is, appropriated from the Maine Post-war Public Works Reserve to be expended by the Trustees of Portland Junior College for the purpose of completion and equipment of its school buildings and for furnishing facilities for veterans of World War II attending said Portland Junior College under the G. I. Bill of Rights, so called.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble this resolve shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Portland Junior College has met an important need in the State of Maine providing 2 years academic or 2 years business administration training for transfer to other colleges and 2 years terminal courses for students not continuing further, many of which students, without this opportunity, would have been unable to have carried on college education. Transferees of Portland Junior College have been successful in all Maine colleges and in many other standard colleges throughout the country. At one time over 350 former students of Portland Junior College were known to be in the service in World War II. At the beginning of the war the college set up an accelerated pilot training program and completed the training in May 1943 of 150 men. It was recognized as one of the highest rating navy units in the New England area, was taken over by the military forces, and in all 600 men received help in becoming fliers as the result of the pilot training program initiated by Portland Junior College.

Since the war it has been providing collegiate and refresher courses for 350 students of whom a large percentage are veterans. Its previous facilities have been inadequate and its work has been done on a makeshift arrangement. It has been recognized by the United States Department of Education for "justification of need". It has purchased land and buildings in the heart of the City of Portland to provide adequate facilities. It has raised and is raising funds but needs immediate finances whereby it can assist the present unemployment, can do immediate interior renovation of its buildings now in demand, can coordinate its construction for use this year, and can carry on its veteran program in an orderly manner.