

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 1299

S. P. 464

In Senate, March 5, 1953.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Broggi of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-THREE

AN ACT to Provide for the Approval of Degree-Granting Institutions.

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

R. S., c. 37, § 124-A, additional. Chapter 37 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 124-A, to read as follows :

Sec. 124-A. Approval of degree-granting institutions. Any educational institutions seeking authority to grant any educational, literary, or academic degree shall make application to the secretary of state, in a manner prescribed by him, not later than the May 1st immediately preceding the legislative session.

Upon notification from the secretary of state, it shall be the duty of the commissioner of education to obtain full information regarding the merit of the institution to confer the degree. He shall use those standards which are commonly accepted in the accreditation of American educational institutions; and shall prepare for the use of the legislature a report regarding the adequacy of the institution's buildings, instructional facilities, and provisions for the safety and well-being of students; the qualifications of the faculty; the character of the program of studies and of the requirements for award of diplomas; practices in the admission of students; the

adequacy of financial resources; and the governing policies of the institution. The report, with recommendations of the state board of education, shall be delivered to the secretary of state at least 10 days before the opening of the regular legislative session.

Any institution not previously authorized to confer a degree must have been in regular operation at least 2 years before the legislature grants authority to confer a degree.

An institution authorized to confer a degree shall inform the commissioner of education of any substantial reduction in its educational program or resources available to students. If in the judgment of the commissioner these changes are sufficient to warrant review of the institution's authority to confer degrees, it shall be his duty to report these changes to the legislative committee to which reference is made.'