

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act Amending and Restating the Charter of The President and Trustees of Colby College

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

Sec. A-1. Name. The corporation created by Chapter CXXXI, enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and approved by the Governor February 27, 1813, entitled “An Act to Establish a Literary Institution in the District of Maine, within this Commonwealth,” and now known as “The President and Trustees of Colby College,” is hereby continued as a body politic and corporate by that name forever.

Sec. A-2. Purposes. The purposes and objects of the corporation are to educate persons of all ages both within and without the State of Maine and to promote education generally; to compile, present and disseminate knowledge and information through any means of communication; and to establish and maintain in the State of Maine an institution for the purpose of educating youth and others, to be called and known by the name of Colby College.

Sec. A-3. Powers of corporation. The corporation has all powers necessary and proper to carry out the foregoing purposes. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the corporation has the following powers: 1. To have one common seal, which it may change, break or renew at its pleasure, and all deeds signed and delivered by any officer or other employee of the corporation and sealed with its seal by order of the corporation, when in its corporate name, are considered in law as deeds of the corporation; 2. To have, hold and take in fee simple or any less estate by gift, grant, devise or otherwise any lands, tenements or other estates, real or personal, in an unlimited amount; to act as trustee of real and personal estate; to borrow money and to mortgage and pledge its interest in any property to secure its borrowings; and to purchase, sell, manage, operate, control and otherwise deal in real and personal property of any name or nature; 3. To sue and be sued in all actions real, personal and mixed and to prosecute and defend the same to final judgment and execution by the name of The President and Trustees of Colby College; 4. To determine at what times and places within or without the State of Maine the meetings of the corporation are held and on the manner of calling and of fixing the time and place and notifying the members to convene at such meetings; 5. To elect or appoint a Chair of the Board of Trustees, a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary, professors of various grades, tutors, instructors, lecturers and other officers or employees as necessary to fill offices or positions the corporation from time to time may create; to determine the duties, salaries, emoluments and tenures of such offices and positions; and to remove any person from any such office or position; 6. To purchase, construct, erect, maintain, operate, repair, demolish or replace houses, buildings or other structures or scientific or other equipment of any nature as the corporation determines desirable or necessary for carrying out the purposes of the corporation; 7. To make and ordain, as occasion may require, reasonable rules, orders and bylaws, not inconsistent with the laws of this State, with reasonable penalties, for the good government of the corporation or institution and to determine and prescribe the mode of ascertaining the qualifications of the students requisite to their admission; 8. To carry on research and experimentation in all fields of knowledge; 9. To confer such degrees as are usually conferred by universities, colleges or other institutions of learning, including honorary degrees, and to issue or confer such other diplomas, certificates or evidence of progress or accomplishment in any field of education as the corporation may

see fit;10. To receive and hold bequests, gifts and endowments and to invest and reinvest the same and to create and carry out annuity contracts or other arrangements or agreements for the payment of sums of money to or for the support of the donor or other persons in connection with any gift or endowment to be received by the corporation, and all money held by the corporation in all forms of securities or real or personal property and the net income from such investments must be used for the furtherance of the purposes of the corporation; and11. To delegate to any officer, committee or other person or persons connected with the corporation any of the foregoing powers except the election or removal of trustees, the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary or Treasurer and the making or amending of bylaws or such powers as the bylaws place exclusively in the hands of the corporation.

Sec. A-4. Members. The members of the corporation consist of the trustees. The President, for the time being in office, is a trustee ex officio, but no other officer may be an ex officio trustee unless so designated by the bylaws. The number of trustees, exclusive of any ex officio member, may never be greater than 35 nor less than 24. The corporation has full power and authority, from time to time as the corporation determines, to remove any trustee when in its judgment the trustee is rendered incapable of discharging the duties of the trustee's office and to fill all vacancies in the corporation by electing such persons for such terms, except as provided in this Act, as the corporation determines best. The Colby College Alumni Association is entitled to elect not fewer than 6 nor more than 9 of the trustees in such manner, with such conditions of eligibility and for such terms not exceeding 6 years, as the association may determine.

Sec. A-5. Restrictions. The corporation may not make or have any rule or bylaw requiring that any member of the trustees be of any particular religious denomination. A student belonging or who may hereafter belong to the institution, sustaining a fair moral character, may not be deprived of any privileges of the institution, be subjected to the forfeiture of any aid that has been granted by the institution for the purpose of enabling the student to prosecute that student's studies, be denied the usual testimonials on that student's closing studies or be denied admission to the institution on the ground that the student's interpretations of the Scriptures differ from those contained in the articles of faith adopted or to be adopted by the institution.

Sec. A-6. Reserved powers. The Legislature of this State has the right to grant any further powers to the corporation or to alter, limit or restrain any of the powers by this Act vested in the corporation as determined necessary to promote the best interests of the corporation. The corporation shall render an account to the Legislature, whenever the Legislature requires, of all the corporation's proceedings and the manner of disposing of the funds of the institution.

Sec. B-1. P&SL 1959, c. 42, as amended, is repealed.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the charter of The President and Trustees of Colby College to increase the maximum number of trustees from 31 to 35 and to increase the minimum number of trustees from 21 to 24. The bill clarifies that the President of Colby College is a trustee ex officio. The bill also updates the language concerning removal of trustees in a manner consistent with Maine law and repeals Private and Special Law 1959, chapter 42.