**An Act To Establish the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute**

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

**Sec.** **1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-I** is enacted to read:

**6-I.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Economic Development | Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute | Not Authorized | 5 MRSA §13120-T |

**Sec.** **2. 5 MRSA c. 383, sub-c. 10** is enacted to read:

**SUBCHAPTER** **10**

**MAINE WORKFORCE, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STUDENT** **ACHIEVEMENT INSTITUTE**

**§****13120-T.** **Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement** **Institute**

**1.** **Institute established.** The Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 6-I and referred to in this subchapter as "the institute," is established to collect and analyze information related to workforce training, research and development, student debt and economic advancement in the State, to make policy recommendations to the Legislature and to conduct targeted research for the Legislature.

**2.** **Steering committee.** The Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute Steering Committee, referred to in this section as "the steering committee," is established to advise the Legislature and the University of Maine System on all matters related to the institute. With the exception of ex officio members, steering committee members serve for a term of 2 years as follows:

A. The President of the Senate shall appoint:

(1) One member from a private college in the State;

(2) One member from the Maine Community College System;

(3) One member from a regional economic development organization serving one or more of the following: Aroostook County, Franklin County, Oxford County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County and Washington County;

(4) One member from a statewide organization responsible for business attraction and expansion;

(5) One member involved in adult education;

(6) One member involved in career and technical education;

(7) One member employed in the public sector; and

(8) One member employed in the private sector;

B. The Speaker of the House shall appoint:

(1) One House member from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic advancement and business matters;

(2) One member from the University of Maine System;

(3) One member from the Maine Municipal Association;

(4) One member from the department;

(5) One member from the State Workforce Board, established under Title 26, section 2006;

(6) One member from the Department of Labor;

(7) One member from a statewide organization representing business interests in the State; and

(8) One member from a state-based organization involved in workforce and business policy and development;

C. The State Economist, who serves ex officio; and

D. The chief executive officer of the Finance Authority of Maine or the chief executive officer's designee, who serves ex officio.

The steering committee shall elect a chair from among its members to serve a term of 2 years and shall meet at least 4 times each year.

**3.** **Location and access.** The analysis, recommendations and research results gathered pursuant to this subchapter must be maintained by the institute at the University of Maine and must be available for use by any interested group or individual.

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute and a related steering committee to advise the Legislature on matters related to workforce training, research and development, student debt and economic advancement in the State. The bill describes the 18 required steering committee members and establishes that each member, other than ex officio members, serves a 2-year term and that the steering committee meets at least 4 times per year.