



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 974

H.P. 634

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

**Resolve, to Increase the High School Graduation Rate by Creating
the Maine Promise Initiative**

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 7, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old
Orchard Beach, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SACHS of Freeport,
SALISBURY of Westbrook, STOVER of Boothbay.

1 **Sec. 1. Maine Promise Initiative. Resolved:** That the Department of Education
2 shall create a program to be known as the Maine Promise Initiative, referred to in this
3 resolve as "the initiative." The primary goal of the initiative is to have, by 2030, at least
4 95% of the State's secondary school students graduate from high school in either a 4-year
5 or a 6-year time period. The initiative must include additional 2030 graduation rate goals,
6 including increasing graduation rates for identified populations that are below the 2025
7 graduation rates of the general population of secondary school students. As used in this
8 resolve, "identified populations" includes, but is not limited to, students who are unhoused,
9 Native American students, students in the child welfare system and students in the juvenile
10 justice system. The department shall convene a working group of interested stakeholders
11 to develop a strategic plan to implement the initiative and achieve its goals. The department
12 shall report on its progress in developing the strategic plan and implementing the initiative
13 and its recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing
14 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 3, 2025. The joint standing
15 committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

16 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
17 appropriations and allocations are made.

18 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

19 **School and Student Supports Z270**

20 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to support the creation of the Maine Promise Initiative
21 with a goal of having, by 2030, at least 95% of the State's secondary school students
22 graduate from high school in either a 4-year or a 6-year time period.

23 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
24 All Other	\$100,000	\$0
25		
26 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$0

27

SUMMARY

28 This resolve directs the Department of Education to create a program to be known as
29 the Maine Promise Initiative. The primary goal of the initiative is to have, by 2030, at least
30 95% of the State's secondary school students graduate from high school in either a 4-year
31 or a 6-year time period. The initiative must include additional 2030 graduation rate goals,
32 including increasing graduation rates for identified populations that are below the 2025
33 graduation rates of the general population of secondary school students. The department
34 is directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by
35 December 3, 2025. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill to the
36 Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. The resolve includes a one-time
37 appropriation of \$100,000 in fiscal year 2025-26 to support the creation of the initiative.