

Date: (Filing No. S-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 170, L.D. 375, “An Act to Require the University of Maine School of Law to Provide an Online Degree Program”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System to Study the Feasibility of Distance Learning Programs at the University of Maine School of Law'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. University of Maine System to study feasibility of distance learning courses at University of Maine School of Law. Resolved: That the University of Maine System shall study the feasibility of expanding the current juris doctor degree program at the University of Maine School of Law to offer distance learning courses and examine providing a new juris doctor degree program that provides 100% distance learning. The feasibility study must include the following:

1. The costs of operating the current juris doctor degree program with distance learning courses and the anticipated effect the offering of distance learning courses will have on student enrollment in the program;

2. The costs of operating a new juris doctor degree program that provides 100% distance learning courses and the anticipated enrollment of students in such a program;

3. The process and costs of the University of Maine School of Law to apply to the American Bar Association for acquiescence, as necessary, to offer a juris doctor degree program with distance learning, whether by expanding the current juris doctor degree program to offer distance learning courses or by providing a new juris doctor degree program that provides 100% distance learning; and

4. The anticipated benefits and disadvantages of expanding and operating the current juris doctor degree program to offer distance learning courses and of providing a new juris doctor degree program providing 100% distance learning courses.

The University of Maine System shall submit a report detailing its findings, including any suggested legislation, no later than November 4, 2026, to the joint standing committee of

1 the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The joint standing committee
2 may report out a bill related to the contents of the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.'

3 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
4 number to read consecutively.

5 SUMMARY

6 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment requires the
7 University of Maine System to study the feasibility of expanding the current juris doctor
8 degree program at the University of Maine School of Law to offer distance learning courses
9 and to examine providing a new juris doctor degree program providing 100% distance
10 learning. The study must consider the costs of operating the current juris doctor degree
11 program with distance learning courses and the cost of operating a new juris doctor degree
12 program providing 100% distance learning courses.

13 The University of Maine System must submit a report with its findings, including
14 suggested legislation, by November 4, 2026 to the joint standing committee of the
15 Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The joint standing committee may
16 report out a bill related to the contents of the report.

17 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

18 (See attached)