

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

H.P. 1390 - L.D. 1880

**Resolve, Directing the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee To Convene a Stakeholder Group To Study Equity in and Access to Early College Programs**

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** this resolve directs the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee, in collaboration with the Maine Independent Colleges Association and the Department of Education, to study a comprehensive approach on equity in and access to the State's early college programs; and

**Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

**Sec. 1. Stakeholder group. Resolved:** That the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 9, shall convene a stakeholder group, in collaboration with the Maine Independent Colleges Association and the Department of Education, to study a comprehensive approach on equity in and access to the State's early college programs. The stakeholder group shall make findings and recommendations regarding the following:

1. Establishing a state standard for dual enrollment certification;
2. Improving access to navigational support for high school students;
3. Increasing how and when public colleges accept credits taken through early college programs;
4. How the cap of 10% of the total funding available to the department for postsecondary education that may be used for high school students to take a postsecondary

course during the summer term pursuant to Title 20-A, section 4776 limits equitable access for students;

5. The current credit limit per semester pursuant to Title 20-A, section 4775;

6. The eligible student population who may access early college courses and who receives or should receive priority for limited spots;

7. The cost of textbooks or access codes for online textbooks, licensing fees or other costs for course materials;

8. Any recommendations of the State's public higher education and dual enrollment stakeholder group and its report on statewide dual enrollment equity in policy, expected to be published in April of 2022; and

9. Any other areas that affect equity in and access to early college programs in the State.

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Public Higher Education Systems Coordinating Committee with the Maine Independent Colleges Association and the Department of Education shall submit and present a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than February 1, 2023. The report must include, but is not limited to, any recommendations pursuant to the study conducted under section 1, including suggested legislation, to improve the State's early college programs. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may report out legislation related to the report to the 131st Legislature in 2023.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.