



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1902

H.P. 1409

House of Representatives, January 5, 2022

Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BLUME of York.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DUNPHY of Old Town, HEPLER of Woolwich,
McCREA of Fort Fairfield, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, Senators: MAXMIN of Lincoln,
MOORE of Washington.

1 **Sec. 1. Commissioner of Education to establish pilot program to provide**
2 **professional development grants for climate education. Resolved:** That the
3 Commissioner of Education, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," shall
4 establish the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program, referred to in
5 this resolve as "the pilot program," to provide grants for professional development for
6 educators on climate science and to support the preparation of courses on interdisciplinary
7 climate education for a period of 3 years.

8 **Sec. 2. Pilot program; administration. Resolved:** That the commissioner shall
9 administer the pilot program to assist school districts in partnering with nonprofit
10 community-based organizations to create and implement plans to provide teacher training
11 in next generation science standards and interdisciplinary climate education.

12 **Sec. 3. Grant awards. Resolved:** That grant awards under the pilot program must
13 be prioritized for schools and communities historically underserved by climate science
14 education. These schools and communities may include, but are not limited to, tribal
15 nations, including tribal schools, migrant students, schools with high populations of
16 students who receive free and reduced-price lunches, rural and remote schools, students in
17 alternative learning education environments, students of color, English language learner
18 students and students receiving special education services. When selecting and prioritizing
19 grant recipients, the commissioner may consider how an applicant has successfully
20 demonstrated student progress, achievement and understanding with respect to climate
21 science standards through the provision of professional development. The commissioner
22 shall establish standards and an application process for the professional development grants
23 in accordance with the priorities in this section.

24 **Sec. 4. Fund established. Resolved:** That the Climate Education Professional
25 Development Pilot Program Fund is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund within the
26 Department of Education for the purpose of receiving funds from the State and other
27 sources for the purposes of this resolve. The department shall use the funds received to
28 administer the pilot program and to award grants to support the purposes described in this
29 resolve. At the end of the pilot program or upon distribution of all the funds, the fund is
30 dissolved.

31 **Sec. 5. Transfer. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the
32 contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$3,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of
33 the General Fund to the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund,
34 Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education no later than
35 September 1, 2022 to support the pilot program.

36 **Sec. 6. Annual reports. Resolved:** That a recipient of a grant under the pilot
37 program shall report to the Department of Education annually for the duration of the grant.

38 **Sec. 7. Report to Legislature. Resolved:** That, no later than January 1, 2025, the
39 commissioner shall submit a report regarding the pilot program and make
40 recommendations, including whether the pilot program should continue as a pilot program,
41 be modified or become a permanent program, to the joint standing committee of the
42 Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing
43 committee may report out legislation on the subject matter of the report to the First Regular
44 Session of the 132nd Legislature.

