

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34

Date: (Filing No. S- )

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 108, L.D. 247, “An Act To Improve  
Maine's Education System”

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

**'Resolve, To Reestablish the Commission To Study College Affordability and College  
Completion'**

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

**'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 legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day  
period in order to allow the commission established in this resolve sufficient time to  
complete its work; 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. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission To Study  
College Affordability and College Completion, referred to in this resolve as "the  
commission," is established.

**Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
commission consists of 14 members as follows:

- 1. The President of the Senate shall appoint:
  - A. Two members of the Senate who serve on the Joint Standing Committee on  
Education and Cultural Affairs, including one member of the party holding the largest  
and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;
  - B. One person representing a statewide association of independent higher education  
institutions;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 C. One person representing a statewide association of student financial aid directors;  
2 and

3 D. One person who is a school counselor in a public high school in the State and who  
4 is involved in advising high school students on college admissions and financial aid;

5 2. The Speaker of the House shall appoint:

6 A. Three members of the House of Representatives who serve on the Joint Standing  
7 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, including 2 members of the party  
8 holding the largest and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of  
9 seats in the Legislature;

10 B. One person with expertise in higher education policy issues representing a nonprofit  
11 entity in the State that provides financial assistance to students or to high schools to  
12 assist students with college enrollment; and

13 C. One person with expertise in higher education policy issues representing a statewide  
14 education policy research institute;

15 3. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;

16 4. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designee;

17 5. The President of the Maine Maritime Academy or the president's designee; and

18 6. The Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine or the chief executive  
19 officer's designee.

20 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
21 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the  
22 commission.

23 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
24 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
25 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
26 Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment of  
27 all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission, which  
28 must be no later than 30 days following the appointment of all members.

29 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall review the work of the 2014  
30 Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion, as established by  
31 Resolve 2013, chapter 109, and examine and make recommendations on the development  
32 of strategies to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable and  
33 to increase the graduation rate of students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of  
34 higher education. In developing strategies and reviewing related cost issues, the  
35 commission shall:

36 1. Examine and update the Maine college affordability gap analysis conducted as part  
37 of the work of the 2014 commission;

38 2. Review average debt incurred by students graduating from community colleges and  
39 public universities in the State, the Maine Maritime Academy and private universities in  
40 the State with 2-year and 4-year undergraduate degrees;

1           3. Review average debt incurred by students who begin but do not complete courses  
2 of study at community colleges and public universities in the State, the Maine Maritime  
3 Academy and private universities in the State and who do not transfer elsewhere to  
4 complete a course of study;

5           4. Review average debt incurred by students completing courses of study from, or  
6 attending but not completing courses of study from, institutions offering credentials of  
7 value other than 2-year or 4-year undergraduate degrees, not including graduate degrees;

8           5. Examine the impact of student loan debt on borrowers;

9           6. Examine the capacity of high school counselors and academic advisors in high  
10 schools in the State to adequately advise students regarding their options for postsecondary  
11 education, including career and technical education, and financing of postsecondary  
12 education; and

13           7. Examine the potential impacts of no-cost community college education on the  
14 workforce of in the State.

15           **Sec. 6. Staffing assistance; information. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint  
16 Rule 353, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the  
17 Maine Maritime Academy shall provide staffing assistance to the commission. The Finance  
18 Authority of Maine shall provide the commission with access to any nonconfidential  
19 aggregate information in its student financial assistance database for postsecondary  
20 education students in the State necessary to carry out the duties pursuant to section 5. At  
21 the request of the commission, the Legislative Council may provide drafting assistance to  
22 the commission during a regular or special session and other staff support to the  
23 commission when the Legislature is not in regular or special session.

24           **Sec. 7. Report; recommendations. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
25 353, the commission shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations  
26 pursuant to section 5, including any recommendations for legislation, to the Joint Standing  
27 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 2, 2022. The joint standing  
28 committee may submit a bill related to this report to the Second Regular Session of the  
29 130th Legislature.

30           **Sec. 8. Outside funding for commission activities. Resolved:** That the  
31 commission may, but is not required to, seek outside funds to provide staff support,  
32 consulting or other services or to fund the costs of carrying out the duties and requirements  
33 of the commission. Contributions to support the work of the commission may not be  
34 accepted from any party having a pecuniary or other vested interest in the outcome of the  
35 matters being studied. Any person, other than a state agency, authorized and desiring to  
36 make a financial or in-kind contribution must certify to the Legislative Council that it has  
37 no pecuniary or other vested interest in the outcome of the commission's activities. All  
38 contributions are subject to approval by the Legislative Council. All contributions accepted  
39 must be forwarded to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council along with an  
40 accounting record that includes the amount of contributions, the date the contributions were  
41 received, from whom the contributions were received and the purpose of and any limitation  
42 on the use of those contributions. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall  
43 administer the contributions and shall notify the chairs of the commission when those  
44 contributions have been received.

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

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

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This amendment reestablishes the 2014 Commission To Study College Affordability  
7 and College Completion. It adds a high school counselor to the original list of commission  
8 members. It directs the commission to:

9 1. Examine and update the Maine college affordability gap analysis conducted as part  
10 of the work of the 2014 commission;

11 2. Review average debt incurred by students graduating from community colleges and  
12 public universities in the State, the Maine Maritime Academy and private universities in  
13 the State with 2-year and 4-year undergraduate degrees;

14 3. Review average debt incurred by students who begin but do not complete courses  
15 of study at community colleges and public universities in the State, the Maine Maritime  
16 Academy and private universities in the State and who do not transfer elsewhere to  
17 complete a course of study;

18 4. Review average debt incurred by students completing courses of study from, or  
19 attending but not completing courses of study from, institutions offering credentials of  
20 value other than 2-year or 4-year undergraduate degrees, not including graduate degrees;

21 5. Examine the impact of student loan debt on borrowers;

22 6. Examine the capacity of high school counselors and academic advisors in high  
23 schools in the State to adequately advise students regarding their options for postsecondary  
24 education, including career and technical education, and financing of postsecondary  
25 education; and

26 7. Examine the potential impacts of no-cost community college education on the  
27 workforce of the State.

28 It requires the commission to submit a report containing its findings and  
29 recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation, to the Joint Standing  
30 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 2, 2022. The joint standing  
31 committee may submit a bill related to this report to the Second Regular Session of the  
32 130th Legislature.