



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1264

H.P. 812

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

**Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public
Policy on Higher Education**

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

Robert B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, LYMAN of Livermore Falls,
SAMPSON of Alfred, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Speaker TALBOT ROSS
of Portland, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Update
2 Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education, referred to in this resolve as "the commission,"
3 is established.

4 **Sec. 2. Study group membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
5 353, the study group consists of 13 members, including:

6 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, who serve
7 on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, including one member
8 of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the
9 party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

10 2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
11 House, who serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,
12 including 2 members of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and
13 one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

14 3. One member with expertise in higher education policy issues representing a
15 statewide education policy research institute, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 4. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the
17 Maine Community College System, appointed by the President of the Senate;

18 5. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the
19 University of Maine System, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20 6. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine
21 Maritime Academy, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

22 7. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;

23 8. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designee;

24 9. The President of the Maine Maritime Academy or the president's designee; and

25 10. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee.

26 In appointing members of the commission, the appointing authorities shall give
27 consideration to race, gender, socioeconomic diversity and geographic diversity.

28 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair
29 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the
30 commission.

31 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
32 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
33 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
34 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
35 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the study group. If 30 days or more
36 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
37 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for
38 the study group to meet and conduct its business.

39 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall review all related laws and
40 rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education, including but not limited to

1 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10902, and make recommendations for
2 potential legislative changes.

3 In conducting its review, the commission shall analyze present and future goals,
4 including but not limited to expanding access to affordable high-quality higher education
5 to help students achieve postsecondary success in the 21st century.

6 To assist the commission in carrying out its review, the Department of Education, the
7 University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine
8 Maritime Academy each shall provide to the commission any data and information the
9 commission considers relevant to its work.

10 At the discretion of the chairs, the commission may seek input from any students,
11 faculty and staff in the State's public institutions of higher education, groups that have an
12 interest in the State's public institutions of higher education and other stakeholders.

13 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
14 necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support
15 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

16 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2023, the commission
17 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
18 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint
19 standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session
20 of the 131st Legislature.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This resolve establishes the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher
23 Education to review all laws and rules pertaining to higher education in the State and
24 addressing related public policy.