



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 43

S.P. 23

In Senate, January 10, 2017

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**Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Study Higher Education  
Attainment and Completion Goals**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative PIERCE of Falmouth and  
Senators: DILL of Penobscot, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock, MAKER of  
Washington, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick,  
JORGENSEN of Portland, KORNFIELD of Bangor.

1           **Sec. 1. Statutory college attainment goal; task force. Resolved:** That  
2 notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Task Force To Study Higher Education Attainment  
3 and Completion Goals, referred to in this section as "the task force," is established to  
4 study college attainment and degree completion goals; and be it further

5           **Sec. 2. Membership; chairs. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 17  
6 members as follows:

7           1. Six members appointed by the President of the Senate, including not more than 2  
8 members from the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature, as follows:

9           A. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on  
10 Education and Cultural Affairs, who serves as a cochair of the task force;

11           B. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on  
12 Appropriations and Financial Affairs;

13           C. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Labor,  
14 Commerce, Research and Economic Development;

15           D. One member who serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine Development  
16 Foundation;

17           E. One member who serves on the Board of Directors of Educate Maine; and

18           F. One member who serves on at least one of the Action and Policy Committees of  
19 the Maine School Management Association;

20           2. Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House, including not more than 2  
21 members from the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature, as follows:

22           A. Two members of the House of Representatives who serve on the Joint Standing  
23 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, the first-named of whom serves as a  
24 cochair of the task force;

25           B. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing  
26 Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs;

27           C. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing  
28 Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development;

29           D. One member who serves on the Board of Directors for the Maine State Chamber  
30 of Commerce;

31           E. One member who serves on the Advisory Council of New Ventures Maine; and

32           F. One member who serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine Education  
33 Association;

34           3. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

35           4. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;

36           5. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the  
37 commissioner's designee; and

1           6. One public member appointed by the Governor; and be it further

2           **Sec. 3. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all  
3 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
4 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
5 Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment of  
6 all members, the cochairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force, which  
7 must be no later than 30 days following the appointment of all members. The task force  
8 may meet 5 times; and be it further

9           **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the study conducted by the task force must  
10 include, but is not limited to:

11           1. A review of the college completion findings and recommendations included in the  
12 December 2014 report submitted by the Commission To Study College Affordability and  
13 College Completion to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,  
14 including the college attainment goals proposed to the commission by Educate Maine, the  
15 attainment goals established by the Lumina Foundation and the "40-40-20" aspirational  
16 goal for all levels of education established by the State of Oregon;

17           2. A review of the statewide postsecondary education attainment goals included in  
18 the December 2016 comprehensive statewide plan prepared by the Maine Development  
19 Foundation on behalf of the Project Management Team of Maine's Workforce and  
20 Education Coalition that includes the Maine Development Foundation's partnership with  
21 the Finance Authority of Maine, Educate Maine, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce,  
22 the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System;

23           3. An examination and review of the secondary and postsecondary education  
24 attainment metrics contained within:

25           A. The Department of Education's Maine Statewide Longitudinal Data System  
26 developed pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6005;

27           B. The Department of Labor's Maine Workforce Data Quality Initiative;

28           C. Educate Maine's Education Indicators for Maine annual report;

29           D. The Maine Development Foundation's Measures of Growth annual report; and

30           E. The initiatives, research and data conducted and compiled by regional, national  
31 and state associations or agencies related to the establishment of postsecondary  
32 education attainment goals, as well as the review and monitoring of the  
33 postsecondary education attainment metrics related to the established goals;

34           4. A review of the initiatives proposed by the public and independent colleges and  
35 universities in the State as part of the March 2014 "Improving College Affordability and  
36 Completion in Maine" report submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Education  
37 and Cultural Affairs;

38           5. A discussion with the public and independent colleges and universities in the State  
39 to recognize the extent to which Maine's institutions of higher education may support

1 proposed state policies and strategies to enable more college and university students to  
2 complete degree programs and certificate programs and graduate from Maine institutions  
3 of higher education; and

4 6. An analysis of other policies and strategies that a majority of the task force  
5 members agree to include in this study; and be it further

6 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the University of Maine System, the  
7 Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy shall provide  
8 necessary staffing services to the task force. The Department of Education, the  
9 Department of Labor, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College  
10 System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Finance Authority of Maine shall provide  
11 the task force with access to any nonconfidential aggregate information in their student  
12 record databases for postsecondary education students in the State necessary to carry out  
13 the duties of the task force. The Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide  
14 drafting assistance to the task force; and be it further

15 **Sec. 6. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit a report containing its  
16 findings and recommendations, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the  
17 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 15, 2017. The  
18 findings and recommendations submitted by the task force must relate to at least the  
19 following proposals:

20 1. The development of policies and strategies to increase the graduation rate of  
21 students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of higher education;

22 2. The establishment of a statutory postsecondary education attainment goal for the  
23 proportion of the State's adult population holding an associate degree or baccalaureate  
24 degree that is not lower than 50% by 2025;

25 3. The establishment of a permanent commission to oversee the implementation of  
26 the structure and scope of the workforce development and postsecondary education  
27 attainment policies included in the findings, recommendations and proposed legislation in  
28 the task force's report; and

29 4. The development of annual or biennial review procedures to be conducted by the  
30 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and  
31 cultural affairs for monitoring the secondary and postsecondary education attainment  
32 metrics contained within the Department of Education's Maine Statewide Longitudinal  
33 Data System, the Department of Labor's Maine Workforce Data Quality Initiative,  
34 Educate Maine's Education Indicators for Maine annual report and the Maine  
35 Development Foundation's Measures of Growth annual report.

36 The joint standing committee may submit a bill related to this report to the Second  
37 Regular Session of the 128th Legislature; and be it further

38 **Sec. 7. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the task force shall seek outside  
39 funding to fully fund all costs of the task force and in accordance with the policy of the  
40 Legislative Council with regard to outside funding. If sufficient outside funding has not

