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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1016, L.D. 1558, “Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education”

Amend the resolve by inserting after the title 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 establishes the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period so that the commission may timely meet and make its report to the Legislature by November 4, 2026; 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'

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 14 members, including:

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

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

1 3. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine
2 Community College System, the University of Maine System or the Maine Maritime
3 Academy, appointed by the President of the Senate, as recommended by the Maine
4 Education Association Board of Directors;

5 4. One member representing the Certification and Higher Education Committee of the
6 State Board of Education, appointed by the President of the Senate, as recommended by
7 the Chair of the State Board of Education;

8 5. One member representing private colleges and universities in the State, appointed
9 by the Speaker of the House, as recommended by the Maine Independent Colleges
10 Association;

11 6. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;

12 7. The Chair of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees or the chair's
13 designee;

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

15 9. The Chair of the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees or the chair's
16 designee;

17 10. The Chair of the Maine Maritime Academy Board of Trustees or the chair's
18 designee;

19 11. The President of the Maine Maritime Academy or the president's designee; and

20 12. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee.

21 In appointing members of the commission, the appointing authorities shall give
22 consideration to race, gender, socioeconomic diversity and geographic diversity.'

23 Amend the resolve in section 4 in the first line (page 1, line 39 in L.D.) by inserting
24 after the following: "**commission**" the following: '**; number of meetings**'

25 Amend the resolve in section 4 in the last line (page 2, line 6 in L.D.) by inserting after
26 the following: "business." the following: 'The commission may not meet more than 8 times.'

27 Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

28 '**Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than
29 November 4, 2026, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and
30 recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the
31 Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The joint standing committee may
32 report out a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.'

33 Amend the resolve by adding before the summary the following:

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

36 Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
37 section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment makes the following changes to the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education.

1. It changes the membership from 17 members to 14 members as follows:

A. It changes the membership from 3 members of the House of Representatives to 2 members;

B. It removes a member with expertise in higher education policy issues representing a statewide education policy research institute;

C. It removes a member who is employed as a faculty member at a private college or university in the State;

D. It removes a member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the University of Maine System;

E. It removes a member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine Maritime Academy;

F. It removes a member who is currently enrolled as a student at a college or university in the State; and

G. It adds 3 members, one member each from the board of trustees of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy.

2. It requires that certain appointments must be recommended by specific organizations.

3. It specifies that the commission may meet no more than 8 times.

4. It changes the reporting date from December 3, 2025 to November 4, 2026.

5. It adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)