

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 547 - L.D. 881

**Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System to Study the Barriers to Use of Cross-laminated Timber**

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas**, the viability and stability of local, regional and state economies depend upon our heritage industries, and the regional catastrophic losses in the timber industry, a heritage industry in our State, constitutes an emergency; and

**Whereas**, a transition to cross-laminated timber and other climate-friendly building materials in our region, country and world is under way, and this transition would be a tremendous economic driver in this State, especially for timber producers, with the resultant boost benefiting the economic, education, health, housing and other goals of the entire State for decades; and

**Whereas**, in other parts of the country and world, buildings up to 25 stories in height and up to the size of a city block in area have proven that cross-laminated timber is structurally sound and can outperform the fire-resistant qualities of concrete and steel construction; and

**Whereas**, an increase in demand for cross-laminated timber in this part of the country would help attract manufacturers to this State, revitalizing mill communities and all components of the timber sector in this State; and

**Whereas**, this State could have the first cross-laminated timber manufacturing plant in New England, and a manufacturing plant based in this State could supply countless building projects in these densely populated regions that otherwise would forgo cross-laminated timber due to transportation costs; and

**Whereas**, the University of Maine System is a world leader in forestry and advanced building materials, and this resolve directs the University of Maine System to study and make recommendations for more widespread use of cross-laminated timber; and

**Whereas**, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; 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. University of Maine System study. Resolved:** That the University of Maine System, within existing resources, shall study the barriers to more widespread use of cross-laminated timber and make recommendations for any professional training or other measures that would promote its use in construction. The University of Maine System may apply for and receive funds, grants or contributions from public or private sources to carry out the study as provided in this resolve as long as the person providing the funds, grants or contributions does not have a vested pecuniary interest in the outcome of the study.

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, by December 6, 2023, the University of Maine System shall submit a report based on its study in section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint standing committees may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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