

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 812 - L.D. 1264

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

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

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 17 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. Three 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 2 members 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;
3. One member with expertise in higher education policy issues representing a statewide education policy research institute, appointed by the President of the Senate;
4. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine Community College System, appointed by the President of the Senate;
5. One member representing the certification and higher education committee of the State Board of Education, appointed by the President of the Senate;
6. One member who is employed as a faculty member at a private college or university in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate;
7. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the University of Maine System, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
8. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine Maritime Academy, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

9. One member representing private colleges and universities in the State, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

10. One member who is currently enrolled as a student at a college or university in the State, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

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

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

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

14. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee.

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

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

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

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall review all related laws and rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education, including but not limited to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10902, and make recommendations for potential legislative changes.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 6, 2023, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint

standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.