

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 23 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

> PENDER MAKIN COMMISSIONER

February 2, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Senate Chair Representative Brennan, House Chair Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

LD 19, <u>An Act to Authorize the National Institute of Funeral Service to Grant Associate Degrees</u> (<u>EMERGENCY</u>), authorizes the National Institute of Funeral Service to grant the degree of Associate of Applied Science in Funeral Service in Maine.

The MRS, Chapter 409, Degree-Granting Institutions, §10704 Initial authority to confer certain degrees and §10706-A For-profit college and university review apply in this situation. The National Institute of Funeral Service, an online for-profit college, is currently in the approval process as described in Maine Department of Education Rule Chapter 149, *Procedures for Obtaining Authorization for Institutions of Higher Education to Confer Academic Degrees or to Offer Degree Courses/Programs in the State of Maine*. The Department supports the State Board in this process. The approval process is not expected to conclude until at least June of this year.

The Department will be available to provide additional information on LD 19 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by: Courtney Belolan

Courtney Belolan Director of Policy & Government Affairs Maine Department of Education

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