



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1400  
TTY: Maine Relay 711

**Holly T. Sargent**

625 York Street  
York, ME 03909  
(207) 358-4793

[Holly.Sargent@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Holly.Sargent@legislature.maine.gov)

April 24, 2025

*Testimony of Rep. Holly T. Sargent introducing*

## **LD 1558, Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Chair Rafferty, Chair Murphy, and fellow members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Holly Sargent, and I represent House District 147, the town of York. I am here today to introduce **LD 1558**, which proposes the establishment of a commission to review Maine's laws and rules addressing public policy on higher education.

This resolve is almost identical to a measure introduced and passed in the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature.

It is both timely and necessary. The Maine Revised Statutes Title 20-A, Sections 10001-13000 which govern our state's public policy on post-secondary education, have not been updated in over 20 years. In that time, significant changes have occurred—both in the higher education landscape and in the needs of students, families and the workforce. These shifts call for a review of the laws that shape how we approach higher education in Maine.

The proposed commission will examine existing statutes and provide recommendations for proposed changes as necessary. It will also review current funding levels and procedures for allocation and distribution to UMS, MCCS, and MMA. It has broad representation of stakeholders and experts and is required to report back to this committee in December of 2025.

At this time of challenge for all higher education, it is critical that Maine's relevant laws support ongoing excellence, affordability and alignment with workforce needs for its institutions. Maine's public and private colleges and universities are economic engines for growth and beacons of learning and opportunity.

We must ensure that our laws evolve with the times and continue to serve the best interests of Maine's students and communities.

I urge this Committee to support LD 1558, as it represents an important step forward in creating a more dynamic and responsive higher education system in Maine. Thank you for your time and consideration.