



126th Maine Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rebecca J. Millett
Senate Chair

Representative W. Bruce MacDonald
House Chair

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Tuesday, December 10, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cross State Office Building, Room #202

1. Call to Order [10:00 a.m.]

(Sen. Millett, Senate Chair and Rep. MacDonald, House Chair)

- ❖ Introduction of Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Members and Staff
- ❖ Overview of Work Session agenda items

2. Presentation of “An Independent Review of Maine’s Essential Programs and Services Funding Act: Part 2” Report prepared by Lawrence O. Picus & Associates [10:15 a.m.]

(Dr. Lawrence Picus, Dr. Allan Odden and Dr. Michael Goetz)

- ❖ Overview of the “Part 2” Report
- ❖ Chapter by Chapter Review of the “Part 2” Report, including Appendices
- ❖ Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations
- ❖ Committee discussion of questions or policy issues related to the “Part 2” Report

3. Lunch Break [12:15 p.m. or at discretion of Presiding Chair]

4. Panel Discussion with Members of the Independent Review Advisory Committee on Part 1 and Part 2 Report Deliverables presented as part of the Independent Review of Maine’s Essential Programs and Services Funding Act [1:00 p.m.]

(Invited Members: Acting Commissioner Jim Rier, Department of Education; Martha Harris, State Board of Education; Dr. David Silvernail, Maine Education Policy Research Institute; Dr. Philip Trostel, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center; Superintendent Gary Smith, RSU 18 (Oakland))

- ❖ Summary of Independent Review Advisory Committee’s November 15th meeting to review deliverables, including feedback presented to Picus & Associates
- ❖ Feedback on the findings, conclusions and recommendations in the “Part 2” Report

5. Discussion of Selected Policy Questions Raised during the October 29th Education & Cultural Affairs Committee [2:00 p.m.]

(Lawrence O. Picus & Associates; Acting Commissioner Jim Rier, Department of Education; Phil McCarthy, Senior Analyst, OPLA)

- ❖ Class size and staffing ratios recommended in the EB model, including impact of not excluding Title I funds on the staffing ratios established for classroom teachers in the EPS model
- ❖ Gifted & Talented program in the EPS model, including data on school units receiving G&T funds
- ❖ Regional cost adjustments recommended in the EB model, including impact of using a Comparative Wage Index as compared to the Labor Market Area index in the EPS model
- ❖ Special education adjustment for minimum subsidy receivers, including impact of adding 100% of special education costs for minimum subsidy receivers in addition to the 55% state share

6. Break [3:00 p.m. or at discretion of Presiding Chair]

7. Work Session on LD 1341, An Act To Support School Nutrition and Expand the Local Foods Economy [3:15 p.m.]

(Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Members)

- ❖ Consideration of re-referring this “carry over” bill to the Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee

8. Discussion of Part 2 Report Recommendations and Timeline for Education & Cultural Affairs Committee’s Consideration of School Funding Legislation during the 2nd Regular Session of the 126th Legislature [3:30 p.m.]

(Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Members; Lawrence O. Picus & Associates; Phil McCarthy, Senior Analyst, OPLA; Wendy Cherubini, Senior Analyst, OPEGA)

- ❖ Committee discussion of Part 2 report recommendations and the need for additional information to be presented by Lawrence O. Picus & Associates or the Department of Education during the 2nd session of the 126th Legislature

9. Adjournment [5:00 p.m.]

(Sen. Millett, Senate Chair and Rep. MacDonald, House Chair)