

An Act To Improve Maritime Education in Maine

This amendment would strike the bill and replace it as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8238, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2019, c. 655, §4, is amended to read:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all powers, duties and authority of the school under this chapter and under any other law terminate 90 days after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the ~~130th~~ 131st Legislature.

Sec. 2. Working Group to Study the Future of the Maine Ocean School established. The Working Group to Study the Transition of the Maine Ocean School, referred to in this section as “the working group,” is established to study available options for the future of the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering.

1. Membership. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the working group shall consist of 10 members, appointed as follows:

- A. One member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural affairs, appointed by ___;
- B. One member of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, appointed by ___;
- C. One member of the Board of the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering, appointed by ___;
- D. The Executive Director of the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation, and Engineering;
- E. The Commissioner of Education, or the Commissioner’s designee
- F. The Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner’s designee
- G. Four members of the public, appointed by ___, one of each with expertise in Marine Science, Marine Technology, Marine Transportation, and Marine Engineering

3. Report. No later than November 2, 2022, the working group 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 on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill related to the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

SUMMARY

This proposed amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The proposed amendment provides that all powers, duties and authority of the Maine Ocean School terminate 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. This proposed amendment also establishes a working group to study the available options for the future of the Maine Ocean School and report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs with its findings and recommendations.