

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
From: Samuel Senft, Esq., MPH, Legislative Analyst  
Date: 4/29/21  
Subj: **LD 814, “Resolve, Directing the Maine Community College System To Evaluate the Need To Expand Workforce Training Options in Waldo County” (Curry)**

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### SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Maine Community College System to evaluate the unmet need and capacity for expanding workforce training options in Waldo County with the goal of providing additional capacity for training in industries with identified employee shortages. The Maine Community College System is required to submit a report with suggested legislation by December 1, 2021 to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

### TESTIMONY

- **Proponents: Rep. Curry (sponsor); Becky Smith, Maine Community College System**
  - We currently have a workforce that is not a good match for jobs that are hiring.
  - The Maine Economic Development Strategy established a plan for how to build Maine’s economy.
  - One thing we need to do is support people in earning credentials of value.
  - Goal is 60% of working age Mainers by 2025; we are currently at 44%
  - In Waldo County, fields like nursing, carpentry, electrical and HVAC have employee shortages. However, there are no community colleges or centers in Waldo County, making training in these jobs difficult.
  - Bill requires focus on 6 trades and industries; however, the System’s plan is to evaluate the full workforce training needs of Waldo County.
  - Bill report back is to IDEA. May want to change to EDU.
  - Belfast is about an hour from both KVCC and EMCC.
  - Outdated or inadequate equipment are major issues at CTEs.
  
- **Opponents: None**
  
- **Neither For Nor Against: None**

**COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION: None**

**POTENTIAL ISSUES/TECHNICAL PROBLEMS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- The report back for this bill is to the IDEA Committee. The EDU Committee may wish to change the report back to EDU.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- The Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029 can be found [here](#).
- A prior version of this bill, [LD 1193](#), Resolve, Directing the Maine Community College System To Evaluate the Need To Expand Workforce Training Options in Waldo County, was introduced in the 129<sup>th</sup> and handled by the IDEA Committee. It died in Committee upon the adjournment of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature last spring.
- [Here](#) is a map and list of community college locations in Maine.
- [Here](#) is a map and list of CTEs in Maine.

**PRELIMINARY FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The [Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement](#) for this Bill indicates that costs to the Maine Community College System to implement the requirements of the legislation can be absorbed within existing resources.