

*Senate of
Maine
Senate District 15*

*Senator Matthew Pouliot
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505*

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR MATTHEW POULIOT

Sponsor of LD 1412

An Act To Require the Department of Education To Provide Information to Students Allowing Them To Make Informed Choices Regarding Their Education and Professional Futures

Public Hearing: April 27, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Senator Matt Pouliot and I represent Senate District 15, which consist of the towns of Augusta, China, Oakland, Sidney and Vassalboro. I am here to present LD 1412 *An Act To Require the Department of Education To Provide Information To Students Allowing Them To Make Informed Choices Regarding Their Education and Professional Futures*.

This bill requires the Department of Education to provide information to students that allows them to make informed decisions about their education and professional future. This would include the following information: the most in-demand jobs in the State and the average starting salary and education requirements of those jobs, the average tuition for the 4 largest public universities and vocational and technical schools in the State, the average monthly student loan payment for obtaining a 4-year degree at public universities and vocational and technical schools and the average starting salary for individuals with 4-year degrees and for those who graduate from vocational and technical schools.

This bill would help students and their parents be aware of all the options available to the student, from 4 year college to vocation programs and apprenticeships to other routes to well-paying jobs. It is important for students to have the real facts about what is available when it comes to their future and what the most in-demand jobs are in the state.

Having this information available may open up opportunities to students that they did not know existed when it comes to career paths. Also this information could get them into a career quicker as this information would let them know what the most in demand fields are. It also could help when it comes to student debt, as it would let students know that there are other options to get the training they want and need and the cost of it.

The ultimate goal of this bill is to put all of this information in an easy to use package so that parents and students can access it so they can make the most informed decisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.