

2 Date: (Filing No. S- )

3 **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

4 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

5 **STATE OF MAINE**  
6 **SENATE**  
7 **126TH LEGISLATURE**  
8 **SECOND REGULAR SESSION**9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to S.P. 668, L.D. 1703, Bill, "An Act To  
10 Increase College Affordability and the Rate of Degree Completion"

11 Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

12 **'Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Increase College Affordability and the**  
13 **Rate of Degree Completion'**

14 Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

15 **'Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
16 353, the Task Force To Increase College Affordability and the Rate of Degree  
17 Completion, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further18 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 16  
19 members appointed as follows:20 1. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including  
21 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;22 2. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
23 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats  
24 in the Legislature;25 3. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's  
26 designee;

27 4. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;

28 5. The President of the Maine Maritime Academy or the president's designee;

29 6. Three members chosen by the President of the Senate from nominees supplied by  
30 the Maine Independent Colleges Association;31 7. Two members from organizations with experience administering student loans,  
32 one appointed by the President of the Senate and one by the Speaker of the House; and

33 8. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force; and be it further

**Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall meet 5 times. The task force shall study issues associated with college affordability and degree completion and develop a 10-year statewide economic and policy strategy. The methods the task force shall consider include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. A scholarship at the University of Maine for the 2nd year of attendance provided to students who agree to work in the State for a certain period of time following graduation;
  2. Tuition guarantees that ensure that students will pay the same tuition for 2 or 4 years while attending one of the State's institutions of higher education; and
  3. Simplifying and transitioning from the provision of tax credits for higher education to the greater provision of state grants and other forms of financial aid for higher education; and be it further

**Sec. 6. Staff assistance.** **Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

**Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than January 31, 2015, the task force shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may submit a bill related to this report to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.'

## SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve to establish the Task Force To Increase College Affordability and the Rate of Degree Completion. The task force is directed to study and make recommendations on issues associated with college affordability and degree completion and develop a 10-year statewide economic and policy strategy. The task force is required to submit a report by January 31, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The report submitted by the task force must include findings, recommendations and any suggested legislation. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters may submit a bill related to this report to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.