



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 564

S.P. 156

In Senate, February 15, 2011

An Act Regarding Retention and Graduation Rates for Maine's Colleges and Universities

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.

Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ALFOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative WAGNER of Lewiston and
Senators: BARTLETT of Cumberland, BLISS of Cumberland, JACKSON of Aroostook,
Representatives: GOODE of Bangor, LOVEJOY of Portland, McCLELLAN of Raymond,
NELSON of Falmouth, RICHARDSON of Carmel.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10011** is enacted to read:

3 **§10011. Retention and graduation rates**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Graduation rate" means the percentage of students who enrolled at the start of a
7 postsecondary educational or degree program, completed the program and graduated
8 in a number of years specified in subsection 2, paragraphs B and C.

9 B. "Postsecondary institution" means an educational institution that offers an
10 accredited postsecondary educational or degree program. "Postsecondary institution"
11 includes an institution that offers an accredited postsecondary educational or degree
12 program on the Internet.

13 C. "Retention rate" means the percentage of students who enrolled at the start of a
14 postsecondary educational or degree program and, not having completed the program
15 at the end of a school year, continue enrollment in that program at the start of the next
16 school year.

17 **2. Retention and graduation rates.** A postsecondary institution that receives either
18 state or federal funding shall report annually to the department:

19 A. The retention rate for the previous year for each educational or degree program
20 offered by the institution;

21 B. For a postsecondary institution that offers an associate's degree program or other
22 2-year program, the graduation rates for students who require 2 years, 3 years or 4
23 years to complete that program; and

24 C. For a postsecondary institution that offers a bachelor's degree or other 4-year
25 degree program, the graduation rates for students who require 4 years, 5 years or 6
26 years to complete that program.

27 **3. Report.** The department shall report the information received under subsection 2
28 annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
29 education and cultural affairs and publish the report on the department's publicly
30 accessible website.

31 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.
32 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter
33 375, subchapter 2-A.

34 **SUMMARY**

35 This bill requires all postsecondary institutions in the State, including institutions
36 offering accredited postsecondary educational and degree programs on the Internet, to
37 report annually to the Department of Education the retention rates of the students for each

1 degree program and the graduation rates for students who complete 2-year or associate's
2 degree programs in 2, 3 or 4 years and for students who complete 4-year or bachelor's
3 degree programs in 4, 5 or 6 years. This bill requires the Department of Education to
4 report this information annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
5 jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs and publish the report on the department's
6 publicly accessible website.