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Date: (Filing No. S-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 100, L.D. 312, Bill, “An Act To Support Workforce Development by Increasing Engineering Capacity”

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

'Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System To Study the Opportunities To Increase Engineering Capacity in Southern Maine'

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

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, engineers are essential to Maine's economy, providing an estimated \$4,000,000,000 of direct and indirect impact on the State's gross domestic product annually; and

Whereas, 27% of Maine's engineering and scientific workforce is 55 years of age or older and the State is currently producing less than half of the engineering graduates needed to meet the needs of businesses and industry in the coming decade; and

Whereas, this resolve directs the University of Maine System to study the opportunities to strengthen the capacity of the engineering programs in southern Maine to meet the workforce, applied research and technical assistance needs of southern Maine's businesses and industry; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Sec. 1. Study established. Resolved:** That the University of Maine System,
2 referred to in this resolve as "the system," shall develop recommendations for
3 strengthening educational programs to better meet the current and projected engineering
4 workforce, applied research and technical assistance needs of southern Maine businesses
5 and industry; and be it further

6 **Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved:** That the system, with input from and in consultation
7 with faculty, staff, students and industry, community and secondary and postsecondary
8 education partners, shall:

9 1. Identify the current and projected engineering workforce, applied research and
10 technical assistance needs of southern Maine businesses and industry;

11 2. Review enrollment trends and existing capacity including but not limited to
12 faculty and facilities of the engineering department and related nonacademic programs
13 and partnerships at the University of Southern Maine;

14 3. Identify future growth opportunities for the University of Southern Maine to better
15 meet the region's engineering needs through program improvements and new and
16 expanded institutional and industrial partnerships including strengthened synergy with the
17 University of Maine's engineering program;

18 4. Identify opportunities to strengthen Maine's engineering workforce by increasing
19 engineering program enrollment and access among traditional and nontraditional students
20 at the University of Southern Maine;

21 5. Review best practices from other institutions of higher education that would
22 inform how the University of Southern Maine could best respond to the engineering
23 needs of southern Maine businesses and industry; and

24 6. Prepare recommendations for strengthening engineering capacity to meet current
25 and projected workforce, applied research and technical assistance needs of southern
26 Maine businesses and industry, including program improvements and new initiatives at
27 the University of Southern Maine to increase student recruitment and retention and
28 strengthen opportunities for students and industry including through internships and
29 cooperative education experiences; and be it further

30 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the system shall report its findings and
31 recommendations to its board of trustees by November 20, 2017. The system shall submit
32 a report of its findings and recommendations, including recommended legislation, to the
33 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing
34 Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development by December
35 31, 2017. After reviewing the report, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
36 Cultural Affairs may report out a bill to implement recommendations contained in the
37 report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

38 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
39 legislation takes effect when approved.'

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SUMMARY

This amendment is the minority report of the committee, changes the bill to a resolve and requires the University of Maine System to study the existing and emerging engineering workforce, applied research and technical assistance needs of southern Maine businesses and industry. The study must include recommendations to increase the engineering capacity specifically in southern Maine by strengthening academic and related nonacademic programs at the University of Southern Maine. The University of Maine System is required to report its findings and recommendations to its board of trustees by November 20, 2017 and to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development by December 31, 2017. After reviewing the report, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill to implement recommendations contained in the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. The cost of the study will be absorbed using existing University of Maine System resources.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)