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Date: (Filing No. S-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 156, L.D. 564, Bill, “An Act Regarding Retention and Graduation Rates for Maine's Colleges and Universities”

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

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

§10011. Retention and graduation rates

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

A. "Graduation rate" means the percentage of the students who enrolled at the start of a postsecondary educational degree program who completed the program and graduated.

B. "Peer institutions" means those postsecondary institutions selected to provide a basis for comparison of retention rates and graduation rates against similar postsecondary institutions in this State. The categories of peer institutions selected for comparison include, but are not limited to:

(1) Public sector institutions that offer a bachelor's degree or other 4-year degree;

(2) Public sector institutions that offer an associate degree or other 2-year degree;

(3) Private sector institutions that offer a bachelor's degree or other 4-year degree; and

(4) Private sector institutions that offer an associate degree or other 2-year degree.

C. "Postsecondary institution" means an educational institution that offers an accredited postsecondary educational degree program. "Postsecondary institution"

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1 includes an institution that offers an accredited postsecondary educational degree
2 program on the Internet.

3 D. "Retention rate" means the percentage of the students who enrolled at the start of
4 a postsecondary educational degree program who, not having completed the program
5 at the end of a school year, continue enrollment in that program at the start of the next
6 school year.

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

9 A. The retention rates for the previous year for the institution, including the
10 first-to-2nd-year retention rate and the retention rate for first-time students;

11 B. For a postsecondary institution that offers an associate degree program or other
12 2-year program, the graduation rates for students who began their studies within the
13 past 4 years; and

14 C. For a postsecondary institution that offers a bachelor's degree or other 4-year
15 degree program, the graduation rates for students who began their studies within the
16 past 6 years.

17 **3. Report.** The department shall report the information received under subsection 2,
18 including national comparisons of retention rates and graduation rates for peer
19 institutions, annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
20 jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs and publish the report on the department's
21 publicly accessible website.

22 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.
23 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter
24 375, subchapter 2-A.'

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This amendment replaces the bill to clarify the requirements that all postsecondary
27 educational institutions in the State provide institution-wide retention rates and
28 graduation rates. The amendment also provides that the annual Department of Education
29 report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
30 education and cultural affairs must include national comparisons of retention rates and
31 graduation rates for peer institutions.