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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
127TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 440, L.D. 1235, Bill, “An Act To Strengthen Standards-based Diplomas”

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

**'Resolve, To Strengthen Standards-based Diplomas'**

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

**'Sec. 1. Maine Proficiency Education Council created. Resolved:** That the Maine Proficiency Education Council, referred to in this section as "the council," is created to make recommendations regarding implementation of the proficiency-based graduation requirements under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A to the Commissioner of Education and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

**1. Members.** The council consists of the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee and the following 14 members, appointed by the Commissioner of Education:

- A. A member of the State Board of Education, nominated by the state board;
- B. Four public school teachers, at least one of whom is a special education teacher, appointed from a list of names provided by the Maine Education Association;
- C. Two public school administrators, appointed from a list of names provided by the Maine Principals' Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association;
- D. Two members of school boards, appointed from a list of names provided by the Maine School Boards Association;
- E. One faculty member representing the University of Maine;
- F. Two members of the business community; and
- G. Two members of the general public with interest and experience in education.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 The council must be cochaired by the Commissioner of Education and one other  
2 member elected by the council. The council may establish subcommittees and may  
3 appoint persons who are not members of the council to serve on the subcommittees as  
4 needed to conduct the council's work.

5 **2. Duties.** The council shall study and provide recommendations for implementing  
6 proficiency-based graduation requirements leading to a diploma consistent with the  
7 requirements of Title 20-A, section 4722-A. The council shall:

8 A. Fully investigate and understand the current status of standards-based educational  
9 systems and proficiency-based graduation requirements in all of Maine's public high  
10 schools;

11 B. Review proficiency-based graduation requirements to ensure that the  
12 requirements protect the rights of all students, including but not limited to special  
13 education and English language learners, to receive a high school diploma;

14 C. Outline the key concerns with the development and implementation of  
15 proficiency-based graduation requirements and provide solutions, where possible, for  
16 the challenges schools face in developing standards-based educational systems and  
17 implementing requirements for awarding proficiency-based diplomas;

18 D. Recommend a 5-year plan for full implementation of proficiency-based  
19 graduation requirements across the State, including, but not limited to, the resources  
20 and support necessary to develop proficiency-based graduation requirements in all of  
21 the State's public high schools, professional development systems for educators, data  
22 systems to track student proficiency information and appropriate communication  
23 tools for parents and students;

24 E. Recommend best practices for adoption and implementation of standards-based  
25 educational systems and proficiency-based graduation requirements based upon the  
26 current experiences of schools that meet the criteria for proficiency-based graduation  
27 and other research and data; and

28 F. Recommend assessment practices other than standardized or other commercially  
29 available testing to assess student proficiency in academic areas.

30 **3. Report.** The Commissioner of Education shall submit a report regarding the work  
31 of the council to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later  
32 than January 1, 2016. The report must include the council's recommendations regarding  
33 implementation of the requirements set forth in Title 20-A, section 4722-A and  
34 recommendations regarding the continuing work of the council.

35 **4. Staff assistance; grant funding.** The Department of Education shall provide staff  
36 assistance to the council. The department may seek and employ grant funds to provide  
37 additional assistance.

38 **5. Council continuation.** The council is authorized to continue meeting, if it so  
39 desires, 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 127th  
40 Legislature.'

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and creates the Maine Proficiency Education Council to study and make recommendations for a 5-year plan for the full implementation of proficiency-based graduation requirements across the State in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4722-A. The Commissioner of Education shall submit a report including the recommendations of the council to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 1, 2016.