

Legislative Update – 122ND Legislature
Second Regular Session
June 2, 2006
Report #15

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Legislature Adjourned*

The 122nd Legislature Adjourned on Wednesday May 24th and prior to adjournment enacted numerous bills that were pending on the appropriations table. Unless the legislation was Emergency Enacted, all bills will become law on Wednesday, August 23rd. We have attached all recent legislation that has been enacted for your review. If you have any questions regarding any legislation that was enacted or any relevant legislation you have an interest in, please contact John Lisnik or Diane Gilmour at 621-3344 .

Thanks to the Board of Trustees, Presidents and Senior Staff for their support during this session, we ended on a high note with L.D. #1785 including \$4.2M for the University of Maine System.

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L.D. #1387 – Resolve, To Develop a Statewide Entrepreneurship Curriculum from Kindergarten through College.

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A”

This amendment replaces the resolve as amended by Committee Amendment “A”. It requires that the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System review course offerings relating to entrepreneurship and promote their campuses as entrepreneur training centers. It also requires the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System to meet regularly to review entrepreneurship education within elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools and to report on the state of entrepreneurship education in the State to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs no later than February 1, 2007.

L.D. #1741 – An Act to Encourage Reporting of Potential Fraud in State Government

House Amendment “C” to Committee Amendment “A”

This amendment allows a person making a complaint through a hotline or other referral

service to allow that person's name to be disclosed if the person agrees in writing. It imposes a requirement that the State Auditor publicly report the identification of cost savings as a result of the investigation. The report must include recommendations for any action necessary to achieve the cost savings. The amendment also requires the State Auditor to Submit a written report to the Governor and publish on the auditor's publicly accessible website all other complaints within 120 days of the receipt of the complaint, indicating the nature of the complaint, the agency that is the subject of the complaint and the degree to which the complaint was substantiated. This amendment also requires the State Auditor, the Attorney General and the Director of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to jointly establish criteria to the Joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters no later than 30 days following development of the criteria or at the next convenient meeting of the committee.

L.D. #1785 – An Act to Promote Economic Development by Enhancing Educational Opportunities

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A”

This amendment deappropriates excess funds in the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Reimbursement program and in the Debt Service – Government Facilities Authority program and provides additional funding for the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System.

This amendment directs the Department of Education to work towards expanding the number of adult education programs offering services to facilitate the successful transition to college to 30 over a 5-year period. It directs the Department of Education to work with interested parties in developing criteria for selecting sites and specifies that 7 pilot programs currently in operation serve as a model for programs at additional sites.

L.D. #1948 – An Act to Save the Marine Technology Center and Strengthen Maine's Boatbuilding Workforce

Senate Amendment “A”

This amendment decreases the General Fund cost of the bill by \$408,977 in fiscal year 2006-07.

As amended, this bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$25,000 in fiscal year 2006-07 to the City of Eastport, Maine for use in planning and coordinating the effort to strengthen and secure the future of the Marine Technology Center. Additional costs to Maine Maritime Academy and the University of Maine System associated with collaborating with the Washington County Community College and the City of Eastport can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.

Senate Amendment “A” to Senate Amendment “A”

This amendment does not change the cost of the bill in fiscal year 2006-07.

As amended, this bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$25,000 in fiscal year 2006-07 to the Department of Economic and Community Development to facilitate

the formation of partnerships to strengthen and secure the future of Maine Technology Center. Additional costs to Maine Maritime Academy and the University of Maine System associated with collaborating with the Washington County Community College and the City of Eastport can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.
