

128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1294

S.P. 446

In Senate, April 4, 2017

Resolve, To Convene a Study Group To Study Proficiency in Content Areas for Secondary School Graduation Standards

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

Heath & Pruit

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DILL of Penobscot. Cosponsored by Representative TIPPING of Orono and Senators: DIAMOND of Cumberland, SAVIELLO of Franklin, Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

1 Sec. 1. Commissioner of Education to convene study group to study 2 proficiency in content areas for purposes of secondary school graduation 3 standards. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Education shall convene a study 4 group to study proficiency in content areas under the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, 5 subsection 2. The study group must be composed of members interested in secondary 6 education, and the membership must have approximately equal representation from the 7 8 Department of Education, the Maine Curriculum Leaders' Association, the Maine 9 Principals' Association and groups focused on relevant content areas such as the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Maine and the Maine Association for Health, 10 11 Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. If there is no group focused on a relevant content area available, the Maine Education Association may provide a representative for 12 13 that relevant content area: and be it further

14 Sec. 2. Study group purpose. Resolved: That the purpose of the study group 15 in section 1 is, for every content area under the parameters for essential instruction and 16 graduation, to determine a baseline proficiency standard that represents a midpoint 17 between the Department of Education's current 8th grade graduation standards of 18 proficiency and secondary school graduation standards of proficiency; and be it further

19 **Recommended** legislation. Resolved: That, along with any Sec. 3. recommended legislation the Commissioner of Education determines appropriate, the 20 commissioner with the assistance of the study group shall develop recommended 21 22 legislation to require a student graduating in the class of 2024-2025 to obtain full proficiency in 6 of the 8 content areas under the parameters for essential instruction and 23 graduation requirements chosen at the student's discretion and at least baseline 24 proficiency under section 2 in the remaining 2 content areas; and be it further 25

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: By December 6, 2017, the Commissioner of Education shall submit a report based upon the study and recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

31

SUMMARY

32 This resolve directs the Commissioner of Education to convene a study group with various interested parties and stakeholders to determine baseline proficiency standards for 33 34 the 8 content areas under the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements that represent a midpoint between current 8th grade standards of proficiency 35 36 and secondary school graduation standards of proficiency. Current law requires for the graduating class of 2024-2025 full proficiency in all 8 content areas in order to graduate 37 from secondary school. This resolve directs the Commissioner of Education to draft 38 39 recommended legislation to require full proficiency in 6 of the content areas chosen at the 40 student's discretion and baseline proficiencies in the remaining 2 content areas as requirements to graduate from secondary school for the 2024-2025 school year. 41