

Part A: Resolve, to Study the Development of a Higher Education Service Corps Pilot Program

Sec. 1. Study the Development of a Higher Education Service Corps Pilot Program.

Resolved: The Maine Commission for Community Service, established in Title 5, section 7501, partner with the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy to **will look at how to expand existing service programs at Maine's public institutions of higher education and will study the establishment of a Higher Education Service Corps Pilot Program**, referred to in this resolve as "the program." The program focuses on applying skills in communities near each academic institution through service and provides workforce development for students. **The Maine Commission for Community Service will report back to the joint standing committee that has jurisdiction of education matters and the joint standing committee that has oversight of the commission by January 15th 2026. Both committees will have the opportunity to report out any legislation pertaining to the findings in the report.**

Sec. 3. Number of program participants from each postsecondary campus.

Resolved: That each campus of the University of Maine System, described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10901-A, each campus of the Maine Community College System, described in Title 20-A, section 12714 and the Maine Maritime Academy **will** have a 20-person service corps. Each 20-person service corps must serve together either over the summer between academic years or serve part-time during the academic year.

Sec. 4. Areas of focus in the program. Resolved: That each campus of the University of Maine System, described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10901-A, each campus of the Maine Community College System, described in Title 20-A, section 12714 and the Maine Maritime Academy must, after consultation with the Maine Commission for Community Service, assign each service corps under section 3 one of the following areas to focus on **in accordance to statute in the Maine Commission for Community Service section 7507:**

1. Coastal issues;
2. Transportation;
3. Energy;
4. Housing;
5. Land and freshwater preservation;
6. Community resilience;
7. Education; and
8. Public health.

Part B: Establish a Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program

The pilot program will consist of 5 students per year and will run from 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic school years. The program will be overseen by Maine Sea Grant in consultation with Volunteer Maine and the University of Maine's engineer school. This program responds to the need for expertise in engineering, planning, and permitting to restore and protect the working water and other vulnerable infrastructure. Maine Sea Grant will provide a report back on the pilot Corps at its completion with the oversight committee having the opportunity to report out any legislation.

Service Activity: Current college and graduate students at the University of Maine Engineering School conduct vulnerability assessments and other analyses of the working waterfront and other essential working waterfront infrastructure threatened by extreme weather. This could be a semester service-learning or summer term project.

Member Development: Members are current undergraduate or graduate students receiving degrees in engineering or related professions. All members will engage with municipal or other partners in the projects. Members will receive education about permitting requirements and funding opportunities to better understand how to move a project from a proposal to implementation. This real world experience and networking with practitioners in the field will expose students to careers in municipalities and better prepare them to work on public projects.