

Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL

1 Amend the bill by replacing sections 116-120 with the following:

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3 116 New Chapter; New Hampshire Higher Education Merger Assessment Commission
4 (HEMAC). Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 188-H the following new chapter:

5

CHAPTER 188-I

6

NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHER EDUCATION MERGER ASSESSMENT COMMISSION (HEMAC)

7 188-I:1 Findings. The general court finds that affordable access to public higher education at all
8 levels is essential to the health, welfare, and security of all New Hampshire citizens and to the
9 future vitality of the state. To be effective, public higher education must respond to the changing
10 needs and interests of citizens and employers while ensuring those services remain affordable and
11 accessible. The exploration of a single, well-coordinated system of public higher education at all
12 levels, pursuing the unique and diverse missions of its member institutions, offering seamless access
13 to and between all levels of higher education, adapting to the rapidly evolving challenges facing all of
14 higher education, and governed by a unified board of trustees, may be an efficient and effective
15 means for meeting the needs of the citizens and the state.

16 188-I:2 Purpose. The commission is established to explore, study, and assess the potential for
17 establishing a collaborative and strategic merging of the university system of New Hampshire,
18 established in RSA 187-A, and the community college system of New Hampshire, established in RSA
19 188-F. The goal of the commission shall be to determine if a unified system of public higher
20 education is, in all respects, beneficial to the citizens of New Hampshire, and if so, to recommend
21 legislation to provide for the implementation of a coordinated, comprehensive system of public
22 higher education.

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188-I:3 Membership.

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I. The membership of the commission shall be as follows:

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(a) Four members appointed by the university system of New Hampshire, one of whom
26 shall be the chairperson of the board of trustees and one of whom shall be the chief executive or chief
27 administrator. The additional 2 members shall be selected by the board of trustees.

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(b) Four members of the community college system of New Hampshire, one of whom
29 shall be the chairperson of the board of trustees and one of whom shall be the chief executive or chief
30 administrator. The additional 2 members shall be selected by the board of trustees.

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(c) One member appointed by the governor.

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(d) The president of the senate, or designee.

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1 (e) The speaker of the house of representatives, or designee.

2 II Any vacancy in membership shall be filled in the same manner as the commission
3 membership originally established.

4 188-I:4 Operation of the Commission.

5 I. The commission shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson upon its initial formation.

6 II. Seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

7 III. The commission shall meet at such times and places as it may determine. The
8 chairperson shall call special meetings upon the written request of any 3 commission members or
9 upon the chairperson's motion.

10 IV. Members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for
11 expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties. Legislative members shall
12 receive mileage at the legislative rate for attending to the duties of the commission.

13 188-I:5 Duties of the Commission. **Intended to be**

14 I. On or before **←April 1, 2022** **August 31, 2022**, the commission shall recommend legislation, if determined
15 both prudent and necessary, that would result in the merging of the community college system and
16 the university system into a single entity called the "New Hampshire college and university system,"
17 to be effective no later than July 1, 2023. In the development of the proposed legislation, the
18 commission shall address and consider issues including, but not limited to, the following:

19 (a) Changes to the governance structure of public higher education in New Hampshire.

20 (b) Changes to state laws to improve the systems' efficiency and effectiveness.

21 (c) Development of a reasonable time line for implementation of a merged system.

22 (d) Potential synergies and reduction of unnecessary duplication of programs between
23 the systems.

24 (e) Opportunities for sharing best practices and individual efficiencies, building cross-
25 system economies of scale and sharing of resources.

26 (f) College affordability.

27 (g) Collaborative strategies to attract and retain greater proportions of New Hampshire
28 high school graduates entering the systems.

29 (h) In consultation with the commissioner of the department of education, investigating
30 and pursuing opportunities for collaboration and student pathways for New Hampshire high school
31 students.

32 (i) Financial and social impacts of the merging of disparate collective bargaining
33 agreements.

34 (j) Preserving the unique character and educational missions of 2 systems in a merged
35 system.

36 (k) Ensuring that a merged system will not result in the elimination of physical
37 education locations in any one part of the state.

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1 (l) Minimizing or eliminating barriers to student transfer between the systems.

2 (m) The contents and recommendations of the “Final Report of the Study Group for Post-
3 Secondary Education” dated March 19, 2021.

4 (n) Other issues the commission identifies as pertinent to its duties.

5 II. The commission shall use such funds as appropriated to hire necessary consultants as
6 deemed necessary by the commission.

7 III. The commission shall serve as the search committee to select a chancellor once
8 legislation has been submitted, should the commission recommend a single chancellor.

9 188-I:6 Reporting.

10 The commission shall submit interim monthly reports to the public higher education study
11 committee established in RSA 187-A:28-a, the governor, and the chancellors of the university system
12 of New Hampshire and the community college system of New Hampshire, and shall submit a final
13 report by August 31, 2022. Additional copies shall be delivered, on a monthly basis, to the fiscal
14 committee of the general court, the house education committee, and the senate education committee.

15 117 Repeal. RSA 188-I, relative to the New Hampshire Higher Education Merger Assessment
16 Commission, is repealed.

17 118 Effective Date.

18 I. Section 117 of this act shall take effect August 31, 2022.

19 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

2021-0956h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

Replace 50: Establishes the New Hampshire higher education merger assessment commission.

UNAPPROVED