

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 700

H.P. 517

House of Representatives, February 14, 2003

**Resolve, To Create the Task Force To Study County Government
Efficiency**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BARSTOW of Gorham.
Cosponsored by Senator MAYO of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: BULL of Freeport, DUNLAP of Old Town, McLAUGHLIN of Cape
Elizabeth, PARADIS of Frenchville, PINGREE of North Haven, RECTOR of Thomaston,
SMITH of Monmouth, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

2 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** Acts and resolves of the
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** this resolve creates the Task Force to Study County
Government Efficiency; and

8 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day
period expires in order that the study may be completed and a
report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative
session; and

12 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
14 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
16 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore, be it

18 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to
20 Study County Government Efficiency, referred to in this resolve
as "the task force," is established; and be it further

22 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force
24 consists of 14 members appointed as follows:

26 1. Four members of the Legislature, appointed jointly by
the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
28 Representatives;

30 2. Four members from the Greater Portland Council of
Governments, appointed by the Governor;

32 3. Four members from the Maine Municipal Association,
34 appointed by the Governor; and

36 4. Two members of the public, appointed by the Governor;
and be it further

38 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the public members are the
40 chairs of the task force; and be it further

42 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
44 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall
46 notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all
appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after
48 appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the
first meeting of the task force; and be it further

2 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall examine
the following issues concerning county government efficiency:

4 1. The general roles and responsibilities of county
government and how these roles and responsibilities compare to
6 county governments in other states that are similar to Maine;

8 2. Ways that state and municipal government can take better
advantage of the regional nature of county government regarding
10 the providing of services to the taxpayers;

12 3. The geographic composition and boundaries of counties in
this State compared to other states; and

14 4. Financing of county government; and be it further

16 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the
18 Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and
20 be it further

22 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members
of the task force are entitled to the legislative per diem, as
24 defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and
reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to
26 their attendance at meetings of the task force. Public members
not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities
28 that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of
necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of
30 the task force; and be it further

32 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit a
report that includes its findings and recommendations, including
34 suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on State
and Local Government and the Legislative Council by December 1,
36 2003. The task force is authorized to introduce legislation
related to its report to the Second Regular Session of the 121st
38 Legislature at the time of submission of its report; and be it
further

40 **Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved:** That, if the task force requires
42 a limited extension of time to complete its study and make its
report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant
44 an extension; and be it further

46 **Sec. 10. Task force budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the
task force, with assistance from the task force staff, shall
48 administer the task force's budget. Within 10 days after its
first meeting, the task force shall present a work plan and

2 proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The
3 task force may not incur expenses that would result in the task
4 force's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the
5 task force, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council
6 shall promptly provide the task force chairs and staff with a
7 status report on the task force budget, expenditures incurred and
8 paid and available funds.

9
10 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
11 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

12

SUMMARY

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14 This resolve establishes the Task Force to Study County
15 Government Efficiency.
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