

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 646

H.P. 414

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unregulated Storm  
Water Pollution**

(EMERGENCY)

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Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta,  
DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, OSHER of Orono, RIELLY of  
Westbrook, TERRY of Gorham.

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

3           **Whereas,** this legislation establishes the Commission to Study How to Address  
4 Unregulated Storm Water Pollution; and

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

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

12           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study How  
13 to Address Unregulated Storm Water Pollution, referred to in this resolve as "the  
14 commission," is established.

15           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
16 353, the commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

17           1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one  
18 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

19           2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
20 House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number  
21 of seats in the Legislature;

22           3. Two representatives of environmental or community groups, appointed by the  
23 President of the Senate;

24           4. One representative of municipal government, appointed by the Speaker of the  
25 House;

26           5. One engineer or representative from a soil and water conservation district, appointed  
27 by the Speaker of the House;

28           6. The Director of the Bureau of Water Quality within the Department of  
29 Environmental Protection or the director's designee;

30           7. The Director of the Bureau of Land Resources within the Department of  
31 Environmental Protection or the director's designee;

32           8. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;  
33 and

34           9. The Commissioner of Marine Resources or the commissioner's designee.

35           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
36 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the  
37 commission.

38           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
39 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
40 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative

1 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,  
2 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission within 45 days. If 30  
3 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments  
4 have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant  
5 authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

6 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall meet to review, study and  
7 analyze existing scientific literature and data on storm water pollution gathered from  
8 stakeholder input and how it has affected or potentially will affect the State's valuable  
9 waters, habitats and species along the coast and shall:

10 1. Identify the actual and potential effects of storm water pollution on public and  
11 environmental health, including on valuable fresh water and marine species and critical  
12 habitats for commercially important species;

13 2. Compile scientific storm water data to identify knowledge gaps that hinder the  
14 State's ability to craft law, policy and other responses to mitigate storm water pollution and  
15 determine methods to streamline the processes by which the State manages storm water  
16 pollution;

17 3. Prioritize strategies for filling storm water data knowledge gaps;

18 4. Recommend policies and tools to better reduce sources of storm water pollution and  
19 prevent increased storm water pollution caused by legacy sources, climate change and  
20 increasing urbanization; and

21 5. Identify barriers, such as staffing and budget, to adopting the necessary policies and  
22 tools to properly address storm water pollution to protect public health, essential habitats  
23 and commercially important species.

24 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide  
25 necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support  
26 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

27 **Sec. 7. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the commission may seek financial  
28 contributions to fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the  
29 Legislative Council in accordance with its policies.

30 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 3, 2025, the commission  
31 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to date, including suggested  
32 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The  
33 joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the  
34 132nd Legislature related to the subject matter of the report.

35 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation  
36 takes effect when approved.

### 37 SUMMARY

38 This resolve establishes the Commission to Study How to Address Unregulated Storm  
39 Water Pollution. The commission is directed to review, study and analyze existing  
40 scientific literature and data on storm water pollution and to submit a report to the Joint  
41 Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by December 3, 2025.