

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**September 5, 1996 to September 7, 1996**

**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 4, 1996 to March 27, 1997**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**March 27, 1997 to June 20, 1997**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JUNE 26, 1997**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 1997**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**1997**

**Task Force to Study the  
Feasibility of a Single Claims  
Processing System for 3rd-  
party Payors of Health Care  
Benefits**

Personal Services	\$1,760
All Other	2,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,860</b>

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and miscellaneous costs of the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits.

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

Effective June 12, 1997.

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**CHAPTER 64**

**H.P. 1145 - L.D. 1610**

**Resolve, to Establish a Commission  
to Designate Outstanding Maine  
Citizens Whose Portraits Are to Be  
Displayed in the State House**

**Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Maine Commission on Outstanding Citizens, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of the following 8 members:

1. One legislative member, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
2. One representative of public schools, appointed by the State Board of Education;
3. One representative from the Maine State Museum, appointed by the Director of the Maine State Museum;
4. One representative from the Governor's office, appointed by the Governor;

5. Three members of the public, appointed jointly by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House; and

6. One representative from the State House and Capitol Park Commission, appointed by the director; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing authorities once the selections have been made. Within 15 days after the completion of the appointment of all members, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. The commission shall select a chair from among its members; and be it further

**Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall designate outstanding Maine citizens to honor by display of a portrait in the State House; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the commission may request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council; and be it further

**Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That all members of the commission are entitled to reimbursement for expenses as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12002, upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council for those expenses; and be it further

**Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature no later than January 15, 1998. If the commission requires an extension it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

**Sec. 8. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

**1997-98**

**LEGISLATURE**

**Maine Commission on  
Outstanding Citizens**

Personal Services	75
All Other	2,150
Provides funds for the per diem of the legislative member, expenses of members	

and miscellaneous costs,  
including printing of the Maine  
Commission on Outstanding  
Citizens.

## LEGISLATURE

**TOTAL** \$2,425

See title page for effective date.

## CHAPTER 65

### H.P. 268 - L.D. 332

#### **Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Unemployment Compensation System**

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

**Whereas,** the nature of the labor force and economy has changed dramatically since the State's unemployment compensation system was established; and

**Whereas,** the Joint Standing Committee on Labor has been presented this session with substantial evidence that the unemployment compensation program is not meeting the changing needs of the labor force and the business community; and

**Whereas,** the Legislature has passed legislation in each of the last 2 legislative sessions creating short-term solutions to the problem of the solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Fund; and

**Whereas,** the solvency of the fund is a continuing issue that requires a long-term solution that would create more certainty for both employees and employers; and

**Whereas,** these issues are sufficiently urgent that they must be addressed during the next legislative session; and

**Whereas,** if the study commission to be established by this resolve were to begin its work 90 days after adjournment, it would not have enough time to study the issues and develop legislation to be considered during the next legislative session; and

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

**Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the Unemployment Compensation System, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of 11 members as follows:

1. The 5 current members of the State Advisory Council as established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 53;

2. Four members of the Legislature, including 2 Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, and 2 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee; and

4. One member representing women's issues appointed by the Governor; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. The commission shall select a chair from among its legislative members; and be it further

**Sec. 4. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the commission may request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative Council; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the unemployment compensation program to assess whether it is meeting the changing needs of the labor force and the business community. The commission shall examine the seasonality exclusion, disqualification of persons who lose work because of problems with child care or transportation, the timeliness of the extended benefit trigger, the adequacy of benefit duration in the dislocated worker benefit program, the solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Fund and the experience rating system, the disqualification of persons who seek part-time work, and minimum earnings thresholds; and be it further

**Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the commission members who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses for each day's attendance at meetings of the commis-