

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 1, 2010 to June 29, 2011

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

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

Augusta, Maine
2011

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Land and Water Quality 0248

Initiative: Appropriates funds on a one-time basis for the Department of Environmental Protection to review statutes and rules including setbacks and forage and pasture regulations that restrict use of lands for agricultural purposes, to consult with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, to solicit data from farmers and agricultural associations and to report findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than January 15, 2013.

GENERAL FUND	2011-12	2012-13
All Other	\$0	\$3,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,000

; and be it further

Sec. 4. Effective date. Resolved: That this resolve takes effect July 1, 2012.

Effective July 1, 2012.

CHAPTER 102

H.P. 486 - L.D. 656

Resolve, To Establish a Task Force on Franco-Americans

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 Task Force on Franco-Americans is established to find ways to promote and preserve the Franco-American heritage that is shared by a great number of Maine citizens; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report prepared in time for submission to 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. Task force established. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Task Force on Franco-Americans, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

1. Four members of the public appointed by the Governor;

2. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

A. One Senator; and

B. Three members of the public; and

3. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

A. Two members of the House of Representatives; and

B. Three members of the public; and be it further

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force; and be it further

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. 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 once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force, upon determining a definition for who is a Franco-American, shall gather basic data about Franco-Americans, including, but not limited to, how many Franco-Americans reside in the State, the percentage of the State's population that is Franco-American, if they speak French, their educational achievement, their annual income and where they live, and shall find ways to promote and preserve the Franco-American heritage that is shared by a great number of Maine citizens. The Franco-American Center at the University of Maine shall work in conjunction with the task force in fulfilling the duties of the task force. The task force may also work with individuals or nonprofit or charitable organizations toward the completion of its duties and responsibilities; and be it further

Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 7, 2011, the task force shall provide a pre-

liminary report with draft recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature. The final report, including findings and recommendations, must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by November 7, 2012. That joint standing committee is authorized to introduce a bill to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature related to the subject matter of the report; and be it further

Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved: That the task force shall seek funding contributions to fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund the study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed; and be it further

Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

LEGISLATURE

Study Commissions - Funding 0444

Initiative: Provides allocations to authorize expenditures for the Task Force on Franco-Americans in the event that funding for the task force is received by the Legislature from outside sources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2011-12	2012-13
Personal Services	\$660	\$660
All Other	\$3,485	\$3,485
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,145	\$4,145

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

Effective July 6, 2011.

CHAPTER 103

S.P. 251 - L.D. 848

Resolve, Directing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices To Study Modifying the Maine Clean Election Act

Sec. 1. Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to study the Maine

Clean Election Act. Resolved: That the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall study the Maine Clean Election Act to address any adverse rulings by the United States Supreme Court in the case of McComish v. Bennett, No. CV-08-1550-PHX-ROS (D. Ariz. Jan. 20, 2010); and be it further

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall submit a report of its findings including any suggested changes to the Maine Clean Election Act pursuant to the study under section 1 by October 15, 2011 to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. The Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs shall report out legislation based on the report by December 1, 2011 for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature; and be it further

Sec. 3. Transfer of funds; Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices - Other Special Revenue Funds. On the effective date of this resolve, the State Controller shall transfer \$3,250 from the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, Clean Elections Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Legislative General Fund account in the Legislature to fund the costs of 2 interim meetings of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to review the commission's report under section 2 and report out legislation.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 104

S.P. 297 - L.D. 951

Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study Priorities and Timing of Judicial Proceedings in State Courts

Sec. 1. Commission To Study Priorities and Timing of Judicial Proceedings in State Courts established. Resolved: That the Commission To Study Priorities and Timing of Judicial Proceedings in State Courts, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 9 members appointed as follows:

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