

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 8FY 77/78  
DATE November 8, 1977

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON PRODUCT LIABILITY

WHEREAS, the number of suits and claims for product liability damages has increased substantially on the national level; and

WHEREAS, the national experience has resulted in increases in insurance premiums to Maine manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, certain Maine manufacturers with good dependability records have experienced difficulties in purchasing insurance; and

WHEREAS, this problem could pose a serious problem to both businesses and consumers in the State of Maine.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES B. LONGLEY, Governor of the State of Maine do hereby establish the Governor's Task Force on Product Liability.

The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

- ..Three members representing the Public.
- ..One member representing the Legal Profession.
- ..One member representing Consumer Groups.
- ..One member of the Manufacturing Sector.
- ..One member of the Retail/Wholesale Sector.
- ..One member of the Casualty Insurance Industry.
- ..Commissioner of the Department of Business Regulation.

A Chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor from within the membership of the Task Force.

The Task Force's overall responsibility will be to thoroughly review this subject and suggest possible alternative solutions which are equitable for all parties who may be involved with product liability.

Although not limited to the following responsibilities, the Task Force shall:

1. Examine the existing Maine legislation or legislation from any other state as it effects product liability.
2. Examine the status of any federal legislation with respect to this subject.

3. Examine equitable alternative solutions and suggest priorities.

4. Examine possible legislation which may be required to implement the proposed solutions.

The Task Force shall have the authority to form subcommittees for purposes of studying particular subjects and may seek advice from other persons in such matters.

Support for the Task Force's operation shall be provided by the Department of Business Regulation.

The Task Force shall make periodic progress reports to the Governor and a final report with proper recommendations shall be made by February 28, 1978.

*James B. Lingley*

