

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 2045

8 S.P. 813

In Senate, February 21, 1986

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

11 Presented by President Pray of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake, Senator Carpenter of
Aroostook and Representative Kane of So. Portland.

13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX
17

18 **Resolve, Creating a Maine Commission to**
19 **Commemorate the Bicentennial of the**
20 **United States Constitution.**
21

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

26 Whereas, the bicentennial of the signing of the
27 United States Constitution will occur on September
28 17, 1987; and

29 Whereas, the United States Constitution is the
30 foundation of our system of national and state gov-
31 ernment; and

32 Whereas, the public interest is served by encour-
33 aging public awareness of our constitutional form of
34 government through educational and scholarly activi-
35 ties throughout our State; and

1 Whereas, the bicentennial of the United States
2 Constitution will be celebrated throughout the United
3 States; and

4 Whereas, it is particularly appropriate that the
5 State, which as the District of Maine, was a part of
6 one of the original 13 states, should officially recognize
7 its rich historical tradition and should cooperate
8 with the present Commonwealth of Massachusetts
9 in celebrating the part that Massachusetts played in
10 the writing and adoption of the United States Constitution;
11 and

12 Whereas, matching grants and funds may be available
13 to the State for the purpose of encouraging public
14 observance of the bicentennial upon the timely
15 establishment of a commission; and

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

22 **Commission established. Resolved:** That there
23 shall be established a commission to commemorate the
24 bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The
25 commission shall consist of 7 members appointed as
26 follows: Two by the Governor; 2 by the Chief Justice
27 of the Supreme Judicial Court; one by the Speaker of
28 the House of Representatives; one by the President of
29 the Senate; and a chairman appointed jointly by the
30 Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial
31 Court, Speaker of the House of Representatives and
32 President of the Senate. The members shall serve
33 without compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable
34 expenses as provided in the Maine Revised
35 Statutes, Title 5, section 12002-A, subsection 1; and
36 be it further

37 **Personnel. Resolved:** That the commission shall
38 commence its work on the effective date of this resolve
39 and shall continue in existence through December
40 31, 1987. It may employ a project director, who
41 shall serve with compensation and who shall be responsible
42 to the commission. Employees of the com-

1 mission shall not be subject to the personnel laws
2 affecting state employees. The Office of the Govern-
3 nor, the legislative staff and the Administrative Of-
4 fice of the Courts are authorized to furnish the com-
5 mission clerical and other support services upon its
6 request; and be it further

7 **Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall
8 prepare a project plan designed to interest and edu-
9 cate the public regarding our constitutional form of
10 government and coordinate with schools, scholars,
11 public service organizations, representatives of the
12 media, the judiciary, the Legislature and the Govern-
13 nor's office to see that both local and statewide ac-
14 tivities are planned and undertaken. The commission
15 is authorized to receive funds from any source, gov-
16 ernmental or private, and to disburse the same for
17 the purpose of carrying out its functions and in aid-
18 ing other governmental and nonprofit organizations to
19 commemorate the bicentennial of the United States
20 Constitution. The commission is also authorized to
21 cooperate as it deems appropriate with the Common-
22 wealth of Massachusetts or any appropriate governmen-
23 tal or nonprofit organization in that state in pro-
24 moting the celebration of the bicentennial of the
25 United States Constitution; and be it further

26 **Appropriation. Resolved:** That the sum of
27 \$40,500 is appropriated from the General Fund to car-
28 ry out the purposes of the commission.

29 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited
30 in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when
31 approved.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 At the request of the Governor, the Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives, the President of the
4 Senate and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial
5 Court, this resolve establishes a commission to com-
6 memorate the bicentennial of the signing of the
7 United States Constitution. The commission's purpose
8 is to organize and stimulate interesting and educa-
9 tional events designed to focus public attention upon
10 the importance of our constitutional form of govern-
11 ment. The stability of our society rests largely
12 upon the public's confidence in the constitution.

13 The commission will serve without compensation,
14 but will have a paid project director and part-time
15 clerical assistance. The commission will be eligible
16 to apply for grant funds and will aid local schools,
17 libraries, civic groups, and communities in planning
18 interesting projects and in applying for grant funds.

19

BUDGET

20	Salary for project director with	
21	fringe benefits	\$23,000
22	Part-time clerical assistance	6,000
23	Travel	1,500
24	Telephone, supplies and overhead	5,000
25	Incentive grant money for local activities	<u>5,000</u>
26	Total	\$40,500

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