

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2387

H.P. 1741 House of Representatives, March 1, 1988
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative COLES of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Representatives CROWLEY of Stockton
Springs, RICE of Stonington, and Senator ESTES of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

1 RESOLVE, Creating the Commission on
2 Marine Research.
3

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

8 Whereas, a clean healthy environment, an improved
9 understanding of our marine resources and optimal use
10 of our marine resources are essential to the future

1 prosperity and quality of life in Maine; and

2 Whereas, Maine should be prepared to take maximum
3 advantage of the increasing federal interest in and
4 support for marine research; and

5 Whereas, there are several federal, state and
6 private institutions currently doing research on and
7 in Maine waters; and

8 Whereas, the Legislature believes there is no
9 clear accounting of how much overlap or cooperation
10 exists between these institutions; and

11 Whereas, the Legislature desires that the talents
12 and limited research dollars available to the State
13 should be efficiently directed towards the needs of
14 the State; and

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

21 Commission established. Resolved: That the
22 Commission on Marine Research is created. The
23 commission shall consist of 5 members as follows:
24 four members of the House of Representatives appointed
25 by the Speaker of the House, 3 members representing
26 the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources and
27 one member representing the Joint Standing Committee
28 on Education; and one Senator appointed by the
29 President of the Senate, representing the Joint
30 Standing Committee on Marine Resources and the Joint
31 Standing Committee on Education.

32 The commission shall hold an organizational
33 meeting at the call of the Chairman of the Legislative
34 Council within 30 days of adjournment of the
35 Legislature. At this meeting, the commission shall
36 elect a chairman from within the membership. The
37 commission shall meet as necessary to develop
38 recommendations. At least 2 public hearings shall be

1 held to solicit public input and comments. Members
2 shall receive per diem and reimbursement for expenses
3 for meals and travel upon application to the Executive
4 Director of the Legislative Council; and be it further

5 Report. Resolved: That this commission shall
6 report its findings, together with any legislative
7 recommendations, to the First Regular Session of the
8 114th Legislature not later than February 15, 1989.
9 The commission's report shall:

10 1. Identify the areas of marine-related research
11 conducted at federal, state and private institutions
12 and the level of support;

13 2. Outline the degree of cooperation and
14 coordination between the various research institutions
15 operating within the State;

16 3. Develop a compendium of research gaps and
17 needs and an over-all state policy and work program
18 for state-supported marine research; and

19 4. Develop recommendations for state actions and
20 funding to support this policy and program; and be it
21 further

22 Cooperation from state agencies and university.
23 Resolved: That the Department of Marine Resources,
24 the State Planning Office, the Department of
25 Educational and Cultural Services, the Department of
26 Environmental Protection and the University of Maine
27 System shall outline their priorities and activities
28 in marine research and cooperate with the commission
29 as it requests; and be it further

30 Staff support. Resolved: That staff support
31 shall be requested from the Legislative Council; and
32 be it further

33 Appropriation. Resolved: That the following
34 funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry
35 out the purposes of this resolve.

36
37

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1988-89

1 Commission on Marine Research
2 Personal Services \$ 1,650
3 All Other 4,150
4 Total \$ 5,800

5 Provides funds for
6 anticipated per diem
7 and other related
8 expenses of the
9 Commission on Marine
10 Research.

11 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency
12 cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect
13 when approved.

14 STATEMENT OF FACT

15 Currently, there are a myriad of federal, state
16 and private institutions doing research on and in
17 state waters. Neither the Legislature nor the
18 executive branch appears to have a clear grasp of how
19 well this work is serving the State's people and
20 industries. Research goals appear often driven more
21 by available funding than by the State's needs;
22 coordination and cooperation appear to be inadequate;
23 and there seems to be no overarching vision to guide
24 the State's marine research.

25 More importantly, increasing pressure on our
26 marine resources from development, tourism, fishing
27 and pollution make it imperative to step up our
28 efforts to restore, protect and maintain the health of
29 our marine environment and to improve our
30 understanding of its workings. In addition, the
31 prospects of increased federal interest in and support
32 for marine research are rapidly improving and the
33 State needs to be ready to take best advantage of them.

1 This resolve establishes the Commission on Marine
2 Research to accomplish these purposes.

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