

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 147

H.P. 110

House of Representatives, February 14, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

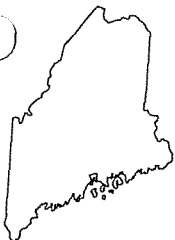
Presented by Representative CARROLL of Gray.

Cosponsored by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Representative ROTONDI of Athens and Representative O'GARA of Westbrook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**Resolve, to Establish an Independent Task Force to Study the
Legislative Process, the Legislative Council, Term of Office and the
Feasibility of a Full-time Legislature.**



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3 **Task force established; purpose; membership. Resolved:** That the
5 Task Force on the Legislative Process is established to study the
7 current legislative process and the Legislative Council, the
 feasibility of a full-time Legislature and the term of office for
 Legislators. For the purpose of this resolve, "task force" means
 the Task Force on the Legislative Process.

9 **1. Membership.** The task force shall consist of the
11 following 12 members:

13 A. The Attorney General or a designee of the Attorney
15 General who shall be a person in a major policy-influencing
 position in the Office of the Attorney General;

17 B. The Secretary of State or a designee of the Secretary of
 State who shall be a deputy Secretary of State;

19 C. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court or a
21 Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court appointed by the Chief
 Justice;

23 D. Two members appointed by the Governor to represent the
25 Governor;

27 E. Five members of the Legislature who are not members of
29 the Legislative Council. Of the 5 Legislators, 2 shall be
31 Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, and 3
 Legislators shall be members of the House of Representatives
 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

33 F. Two members of the general public appointed by the
 Governor.

35 **2. Chair.** The chair and vice-chair shall be elected by the
37 members of the task force from among their members.

39 **3. Compensation.** The legislative members of the task force
41 shall be compensated at the legislative per diem rate when the
43 Legislature is not in session. The public members shall be
45 compensated at the legislative per diem rate in accordance with
 the standards set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5,
 chapter 379. The remaining members of the task force shall not
 receive compensation.

47 **4. First meeting.** The first meeting of the task force shall
49 be called by the Attorney General within 90 days following
 approval of the resolve. The Attorney General shall serve as the
 temporary moderator for the first meeting at which the permanent
 chair and vice-chair shall be elected; and be it further

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Study guidelines. Resolved: That the task force conduct its study to determine the following:

1. Efficiency of the current process. The degree of efficiency of the current legislative process and the means, if any, needed to improve the process;

2. Responsiveness of the current process. The extent to which the current legislative process responds in a timely manner to the problems and needs of the citizens of this State;

3. Quality of the response of the current process. The extent to which the response of the current legislative process adequately addresses the problems and needs of Maine citizens and of the State;

4. Projected demands on the Legislature. The extent to which responsibilities and duties of the Legislature will change within the next decade, based on reasonable evidence, and the ability of a part-time Legislature to undertake these responsibilities;

5. Responsiveness of the Legislative Council. The extent to which the Legislative Council responds in a timely manner to the problems and needs of the Legislature, Legislators and the general public and the extent to which these responses adequately address those problems and needs;

6. Reflection of the policies and responses of the Legislative Council to the will of the Legislature. The extent to which the policies and responses of the Legislative Council reflect the intent and will of the members of the Legislature. This task shall include an analysis of the manner in which Legislative Council decisions are made and the extent to which the decision-making process is fair and just with respect to the members of the Legislature and the principal person affected by council decisions;

7. Term of office. The term of office of Legislators and the need, if any, to revise the length of terms;

8. Need for a full-time Legislature. The extent, if any, to which a full-time Legislature could better address the problems and needs of the State and its citizens. This task shall also include a determination of the costs of a full-time Legislature; and be it further

Consultation. Resolved: That in conducting the study the task force consult with public interest groups, Legislators, former Legislators, legislative staff persons and other persons or groups determined necessary by the task force;

1 5. The length of the term of office by which Legislators
3 can best serve the needs of the State; and

5 6. The feasibility of a full-time Legislature.

7 The task force will elect its own chair from among its
9 members. The members include 5 Legislators elected by the
11 Legislature who may not be members of the Legislative Council.
13 The Governor will appoint 2 members to represent the Executive
15 Department and 2 members to represent the general public. The
17 Attorney General, the Secretary of State and the Chief Justice of
19 the Supreme Judicial Court or their designees are also members of
21 the task force.

 The task force will hold its first meeting called by the
17 Attorney General within 90 days following approval of the resolve
19 by the Governor. The task force will issue a report to the First
21 Regular Session of the 115th Legislature no later than February
1, 1991.