

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 575

H.P. 401

House of Representatives, February 12, 1991

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 FOSS of Yarmouth.

Cosponsored by Representative REED of Falmouth, Representative MacBRIDE of Presque Isle and Senator PEARSON of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

Resolve, to Establish the Special Commission to Study the Operations of
State Government.

(EMERGENCY)



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

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6 Whereas, State Government is facing a projected revenue
shortfall for the balance of this fiscal year and may face a
shortfall in the next biennium; and

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10 Whereas, substantial opportunities for cost savings in
State Government need to be identified immediately; and

12 Whereas, in order to submit an interim report by April 1st
and a final report in time for the next legislative session, a
study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires; and

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

22 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Special
Commission to Study the Operations of State Government is
24 established; and be it further

26 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
consists of the following 13 members: 9 persons in managerial
28 positions in private enterprises, 7 of whom are appointed by the
Governor, one by the President of the Senate and one by the
30 Speaker of the House of Representatives; 2 persons who are or
have been college or university educators and are not teaching in
32 state-funded institutions, one of whom is appointed by the
Governor and one by the President of the Senate; and 2 persons
34 who are health care administrators, one of whom is appointed by
the Governor and one by the Speaker of the House of
36 Representatives; and be it further

38 **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
appointments must be made no later than 10 days following the
40 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
42 authorities once the selections have been made. When the
appointment of a majority of the members has been completed, the
44 Governor shall call and convene the first meeting of the
commission no later than February 1, 1991. The Governor shall
46 select a chair from among the commission members; and be it
further

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50 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study all
operations of State Government with a view toward

streamlining operations and achieving immediate and long-term cost savings. In examining these issues, the commission may:

1. Hold up to 10 public hearings at the times and places it determines necessary;

2. Hold informational sessions for discussions with knowledgeable persons;

3. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a literature search, including an examination of the federal Grace Commission report;

4. Procure and analyze relevant data;

5. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal questions within the scope of the study; and

6. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions related to issues within the scope of the study; and be it further

Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That the commission shall submit an interim report to the First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature by April 1, 1991, and a final report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature and the Office of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council no later than November 1, 1991; and be it further

Sec. 6. Expenses. Resolved: That expenses or reimbursements of commission members are not authorized; and be it further

Sec. 7. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

1990-91

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Special Commission to Study the Operations of State Government

All Other \$6,000

Provides funds for public hearings, report printing and other expenses of the Special Commission to Study the Operations of State Government. These funds may not lapse but must be carried forward to June 30, 1992.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill establishes the Special Commission to Study the Operations of State Government and instructs the commission to study and make recommendations to streamline operations of State Government to achieve immediate and long-term cost savings. The commission shall report its interim findings to the Legislature by April 1, 1991 and submit a final report to the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature, together with any implementing legislation, by November 1, 1991.