

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 1631

S.P. 627

In Senate, April 24, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Business Legislation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Feasibility of Using  
the Metric System.**

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(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

4  
6           Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day  
period expires in order that the study may be completed and a  
report submitted in time for the next legislative session; and

8  
10           Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
12 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore, be it

14  
16           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission  
to Study the Feasibility of Using the Metric System is  
established; and be it further

18  
20           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission  
consists of the following 7 members: one member representing the  
Chamber of Commerce; one member representing the Free Trade Zone;  
22 one member from the Department of Labor, appointed by the  
Governor; and 2 Senators and 2 members of the House of  
24 Representatives, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate  
and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

26  
28           **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all  
appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the  
effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the  
30 Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing  
authorities once the selections have been made. When the  
32 appointment of all members has been completed, the Chair of the  
Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of  
34 the commission no later than July 15, 1991. The commission shall  
select a chair from among its members; and be it further

36  
38           **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the  
feasibility of the metric system and how the metric system  
affects business trade with foreign countries.

40  
42           In conducting the study, the commission may:

44           1. Meet 4 times at convenient times and places within  
Augusta;

46           2. Hold informational sessions for discussions with  
knowledgeable persons;

48           3. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a  
50 literature search;

2 4. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of  
the public or affected persons and groups;

4 5. Procure and analyze relevant data;

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

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

12 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the commission shall  
14 request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council; and be  
it further

16 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the members of the  
18 commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative  
per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,  
20 section 2, for each day's attendance of commission hearings. All  
members of the commission who are not state employees are  
22 entitled to expenses, as defined in Title 5, section 12002, upon  
application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
24 for those expenses; and be it further

26 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit  
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,  
28 to the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature and the  
Office of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council no  
30 later than November 1, 1991; and be it further

32 **Sec. 8. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are  
appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of  
34 this resolve.

36 1991-92

38 **LEGISLATURE**

40 **Commission to Study the Feasibility  
of Using the Metric System**

42 Personal Services \$1,100  
44 All Other 1,750

46 Provides funding for the Commission to Study  
the Feasibility of Using the Metric System,  
48 including per diem and expenses for  
legislative members, expenses for other

2 members, printing costs and other meeting  
expenses.

4 LEGISLATURE  
TOTAL

\$2,850

6  
8 **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 resolve establishes the Commission to Study the  
Feasibility of Using the Metric System. The commission shall  
16 study to what extent the metric system affects business trade  
with foreign countries and make recommendations to enhance the  
18 State's trade with foreign countries by using the metric system.