

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
116TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1015, L.D. 1361, Bill, "An Act to Define Responsibilities of the Commission on Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 14 members appointed as follows:

1. Two Legislators, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

2. Four representatives of industry, including one person who has practical experience in and knowledge of agricultural procedures, one person who represents the food processing industry, one person who represents the biotechnology industry and one person who represents the marine fisheries industry;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

3. Four representatives from the academic community, including one economist who has practical experience and knowledge of natural resources, one ethicist with knowledge of biotechnology and genetic engineering issues, one environmental scientist and one public health professional; and

4. Four representatives from the public, including one person who represents a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization, one person who represents a nonprofit public interest environmental organization, one person who represents the general public and one person who is an organic farmer.

All members of the commission, with the exception of the Legislators, are appointed jointly by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The committee shall at its first meeting select 2 members to serve as cochairs; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete, the chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission no later than August 15, 1994; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall study and make recommendations on the role of State Government in the oversight of biotechnology and genetic engineering. In examining these issues, the commission shall review the existing Commission on Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 8-C and also do the following:

1. Identify and review existing state statutes that provide authority for regulating products and activities, including statutes governing food and agriculture, health and safety, confidential business information and the environment;

2. Advise the legislative and executive branches, including regulatory agencies, on the adequacy of existing state and federal oversight frameworks and recommend needed action at state and federal levels;

3. Assess the adequacy of communication pathways among responsible state agencies, federal agencies and local communities and recommend a strategy for informing local community policymakers of state and federal oversight frameworks and the roles of local government in making regulations concerning biotechnology and genetic engineering and in communicating with the public on these issues;

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1015, L.D. 1361

2 Provides funds for the Commission to Study
3 Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering for
4 the per diem of legislative members,
5 expenses of all members and miscellaneous
6 commission expenses.

7
8 **LEGISLATURE
TOTAL**

\$5,360'

10 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
11 statement of fact the following:

12 **FISCAL NOTE**

13
14 **1994-95**

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16 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

17 General Fund \$5,360
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22 This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$5,360 in
23 fiscal year 1994-95 to the Legislature for the Commission to
24 Study Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering for the per diem of
25 legislative members, expenses of all members and miscellaneous
26 commission expenses. The Legislature can absorb the costs
27 related to staffing the commission utilizing existing budgeted
28 resources.'

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32 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

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34 This amendment establishes the Commission to Study
35 Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering. Specifically, the
36 14-member commission is charged with identifying and reviewing
37 existing state laws that provide authority for regulating
38 products and activities, such as food and agricultural laws,
39 health and safety laws, confidential business information laws
40 and environmental laws. The amendment also adds an appropriation
41 section and a fiscal note to the bill.
42