

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
H. G. S.

L.D. 1560

DATE: 3/27/96

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
117TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1112, L.D. 1560, "Resolve, to Reduce Reliance on the Property Tax for School Funding"

Amend the resolve 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 Alternative Methods of Financing Public Education, referred in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 17 members, appointed as follows:

1. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education, one chosen by the President of the Senate and one chosen by the Speaker of the House;

2. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, one chosen by the President of the Senate and one chosen by the Speaker of the House;

3. The Commissioner of Education and the presidents or executive directors of the Maine Education Association, the Maine School Boards Association, the Maine Municipal Association and the Maine School Superintendents' Association. The president or executive director of any of these organizations may name a person who is a member of the organization to serve in the president's or executive director's place;

4. Eight members representing the public, appointed by the Governor. Of these 8 members, one must be a certified public

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 accountant and 2 must be public policy faculty members from an
3 institution of higher education in Maine; and be it further

4 **Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be
5 made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
6 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive
7 Director of the Legislative Council upon making their
8 appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete,
9 the chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the
10 first meeting of the commission no later than August 15, 1996.
11 The commission shall select a chair from among its legislative
12 members; and be it further

14 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine
15 alternative methods of financing state public education for
16 kindergarten through high school. In examining these issues, the
17 commission shall:

18 1. Review models and methods that are employed by other
19 states to finance public education; and

22 2. Examine different methods of reducing reliance on local
23 property taxes to finance education; and be it further

24 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the commission shall
25 request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative
26 Council; and be it further

28 **Sec. 6. Expenses. Resolved:** That all members of the
29 commission are entitled to reimbursement for travel and other
30 necessary expenses upon application to the Legislative Council.
31 The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall
32 administer the commission's budget; and be it further

34 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the Commission shall submit
35 its report with any accompanying legislation to the First Regular
36 Session of the 118th Legislature by November 1, 1996; and be it
37 further

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

44 1996-97

46 **LEGISLATURE**

48 **Commission to Study Alternative**
49 **Methods of Financing Public Education**

50

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1112, L.D. 1560

2	Personal Services	\$1,100
	All Other	4,500
4	TOTAL	<u>\$5,600</u>

6 Provides funds to the Commission to Study
 8 Alternative Methods of Financing Public
 Education for the per diem of legislative
 10 members, travel expenses of all members and
 miscellaneous commission expenses.'

12 Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the
 statement of fact the following:

16 **FISCAL NOTE**

18 **1996-97**

20 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

22	General Fund	\$5,600
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24 This resolve provides a General Fund appropriation of \$5,600
 26 in fiscal year 1996-97 for the Legislature for the per diem of
 legislative members, travel expenses of all members and
 28 miscellaneous costs of the Commission to Study Alternative
 Methods of Financing Public Education.

30 The Legislature will incur some minor additional costs to
 provide staffing and clerical assistance to the commission.
 32 These costs can be absorbed within the Legislature's existing
 budgeted resources.'

36 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

38 This amendment creates a 17-member study commission to
 40 investigate alternative methods of financing public education and
 different methods of reducing reliance on property taxes to fund
 42 education. The commission must submit its report and any
 accompanying legislation to the First Regular Session of the
 44 118th Legislature.

46 This amendment also adds an appropriation section and a
 fiscal note to the resolve.