

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 778

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H.P. 587

House of Representatives, February 4, 1997

**Resolve, to Create a Voluntary Commission to Study the Integrity of  
Political Advertisements and Their Effect on the Voters.**

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Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LANE of Enfield.  
Cosponsored by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook and  
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Holden, DONNELLY of Presque Isle, GERRY of Auburn,  
JOY of Crystal, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, MACK of Standish, MERES of  
Norridgewock, NASS of Acton.

2           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Voluntary  
Commission to Study the Integrity of Political Advertisements and  
4           their Effect on the Voters, referred to in this resolve as the  
"commission," is established; and be it further

6           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission  
consists of the following members:

8  
1. Two Legislators appointed jointly by the majority  
10       leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives and 2  
Legislators appointed jointly by the minority leaders of the  
12       Senate and the House of Representatives;

14       2. One representative of the media industry appointed  
jointly by the majority leaders of the Senate and the House of  
16       Representatives and one representative of the media industry  
appointed jointly by the minority leaders of the Senate and the  
18       House of Representatives;

20       3. Four registered voters without any affiliation with  
government service and not enrolled in any political party  
22       selected jointly by the majority and minority leaders of the  
Maine Legislature; and

24       4. The Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's  
26       designee who serves ex officio; and be it further

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

38           **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the  
integrity of political advertisements and their effect on the  
40       voters. The commission shall discuss both negative and positive  
advertising and the effect that each has on the voters. The  
42       commission may study any other issues relating to political  
advertising including political mailings from any source that the  
44       commission determines appropriate; and be it further

46           **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council  
shall provide staffing assistance to the commission; and be it  
48       further

2       **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the members of the  
commission are not entitled to reimbursement or compensation for  
attendance at meetings of the commission; and be it further

4  
6       **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit  
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,  
to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature no later  
8       than February 1, 1998. If the commission requires an extension,  
it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant an  
10       extension.

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14                               **SUMMARY**

16       This resolve establishes the Voluntary Commission to Study  
the Integrity of Political Advertisements and their Effect on the  
Voters. The commission members shall submit their report to the  
18       Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.