

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

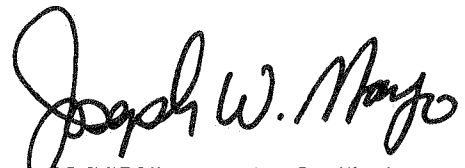
No. 779

H.P. 588

House of Representatives, February 4, 1997

**Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study the Maine Residents
Property Tax and Rent Refund Program and Make it More Accessible.**

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CHARTRAND of Rockland.
Cosponsored by Senator PINGREE of Knox and
Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, DEXTER of Kingfield, POWERS of Rockport,
QUINT of Portland, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, SKOGLUND of St. George, TRIPP of
Topsham, VOLENIK of Brooklin.

2 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission
to Study the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund
4 Program, referred to in this resolve as "commission," is
established for the purpose of making the refund program more
6 accessible to the general public; and be it further

8 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
consists of the following 5 members:

- 10 1. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation;
- 12 2. One representative from the Bureau of Taxation,
appointed by the State Tax Assessor; and
- 14 3. Two representatives of municipal government, appointed
16 by the Executive Director of the Maine Municipal
Association; and be it further

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

28 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
30 Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, referred to
in this section as "refund program," with the intent of making
32 the refund program more effective and accessible to the general
public. In conducting the study, the commission shall examine:

- 34 1. The number of eligible applicants for the refund program;
- 36 2. Making the refund program an element of the Maine income
38 tax by combining the income tax form with the refund program
form;
- 40 3. Supplying information concerning the refund program on
42 every tax form available to the public;
- 44 4. Having the Bureau of Taxation use information supplied
46 on previous tax forms, together with information supplied by
municipalities, to send notices to taxpayers who appear to
48 be eligible for the refund program;
- 50 5. Supplying municipalities with information on the refund
program that can be mailed along with property tax bills; and

2 6. Other issues that are relevant to the study; and be it
further

4 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Bureau of Taxation
shall provide staff assistance; and be it further

6 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the members of the
8 commission are entitled to reimbursement for travel and other
necessary expenses related to attending meetings of the
10 commission. Expenses are to be paid from any remaining money in
the 1995 refund program account; and be it further

12 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
14 its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature and to the
16 Joint Standing Committee on Taxation with a copy to the Executive
Director of the Legislative Council no later than January 1,
18 1998. If the commission requires an extension it may apply to
the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension.

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SUMMARY

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26 This resolve establishes the Commission to Study the Maine
Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program for the purpose of
28 making the program more accessible to the general public.