

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1035, L.D. 1452, Bill, "An Act to Place a Moratorium on Construction and Development in Southern Maine and to Provide for Equal Economic Opportunity for All Regions of the State"

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

'An Act to Establish the Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for All Regions of the State'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the enacting clause.

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State; established. The Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State is established and referred to in this Act as the "task force."

1. Membership. The task force consists of 14 members appointed as follows:

A. Five members of the Legislature, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. S.

- 2 B. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
- 4 or a designee empowered to act on the behalf of the
- 6 commissioner;
- 8 C. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or a
- 10 designee empowered to act on the behalf of the commissioner;
- 12 D. The Director of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission
- 14 or a designee empowered to act on the behalf of the director;
- 16 E. Three members from regional development agencies located
- 18 in northern, western and eastern counties of the State; and
- 20 F. Three members of the public.

The task force may create working groups with representatives from interested parties and members of the task force to assist in its work. Regional development agencies members and public members of the task force must be appointed by the chair.

22 **2. Appointments.** All appointments must be made no later
 24 than 30 days following the effective date of this Act, with the
 26 exception of the regional development agency members and public
 28 members. The regional agency members and public members must be
 30 appointed by the chair of the task force by the task force's 2nd
 32 meeting. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive
 34 Director of the Legislative Council upon making their
 36 appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete,
 38 the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the
 first meeting of the task force no later than October 15, 1997.
 The task force shall select a chair from among its legislative
 members. Task force meetings must be held in various regions of
 the state, with emphasis on holding meetings in the areas most
 affected by lack of economic development. The task force may not
 hold meetings during the Second Regular Session of the 118th
 Legislature.

38 **3. Duties.** The task force shall:

- 40 A. Study the causes of unequal economic growth in regions
- 42 of the State and recommend strategies to overcome barriers
- 44 to economic growth in affected regions of the State,
- 46 including but not limited to Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford,
- Piscataquis, Penobscot, Somerset, Waldo, Hancock and
- Washington counties;
- 48 B. Identify strategies to provide fair and equitable
- 50 standards for development and construction in all areas of
- the State;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. S.

2 C. Examine laws and regulations governing economic
4 development and recommend policies and actions that will
enhance economic development statewide; and

6 D. Request necessary data from either public or private
8 entities that relate to the needs of the task force.

4. **Staff assistance.** That the task force shall request
10 staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative Council.

12 5. **Reimbursement.** That the task force members who are
Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as
14 defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for
each day of attendance at meetings of the task force. All other
16 members are not entitled to compensation, with the exception of
public members who are not being compensated by their employer
18 for their participation on the task force. These individuals are
entitled to reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses
20 upon application to the Legislative Council. The Executive
Director of the Legislative Council shall administer the task
22 force's budget.

24 6. **Report.** That the task force shall submit an interim
report to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic
26 Development by February 15, 1998 and a final report with any
accompanying legislation to the Governor, the Legislative Council
28 and the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic
Development to the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature
30 by November 15, 1998.

32 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1997-98	1998-99
LEGISLATURE		
Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State		
42 Personal Services	\$1,375	\$1,650
44 All Other	3,750	4,300
46 TOTAL	\$5,125	\$5,950
48 Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of		

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R.S.

2 legislative members, expenses
3 of members and miscellaneous
4 costs of the Task Force to
5 Study Equal Economic
6 Opportunity for all Regions
7 of the State.'

8 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
9 summary the following:

12 **FISCAL NOTE**

14 **1997-98 1998-99**
16 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

18 General Fund \$5,125 \$5,950

20 The Legislature will require additional General Fund
21 appropriations of \$5,125 and \$5,950 in fiscal years 1997-98 and
22 1998-99, respectively, for the per diem and expenses of
23 legislative members, expenses of members and miscellaneous costs
24 of the Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all
25 Regions of the State. The additional costs associated with
26 providing staffing and clerical assistance to the task force can
27 be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted
28 resources.

30 The Department of Economic and Community Development, the
31 Department of Environmental Protection and the Land Use
32 Regulation Commission will incur some minor additional costs to
33 participate as members of the task force. These costs can be
34 absorbed within those agencies' existing budgeted resources.'

36 **SUMMARY**
38

40 The bill proposes to impose a moratorium on construction and
41 development in southern Maine counties for 2 years or a lesser
42 time if laws are enacted before then to provide equal economic
43 opportunity for all regions of the State. The Board for Equal
44 Economic Development Opportunity is established by the bill to
45 recommend laws to provide equity and study the feasibility of
46 creating 2 states out of the current Maine territory.

48 This amendment replaces the bill and establishes the Task
49 Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the
50 State. The purpose of the task force is to evaluate the causes
of unequal economic development and recommend strategies to

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R.S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "1" to H.P. 1035, L.D. 1452

2 overcome the barriers. The task force is required to provide an
interim report by February 15, 1997 to the Joint Standing
4 Committee on Business and Economic Development and a final report
to the Governor, the Legislative Council and the Joint Standing
6 Committee on Business and Economic Development to the First
Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by November 15, 1998.
The amendment also adds an appropriation section and fiscal note
8 to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT