

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

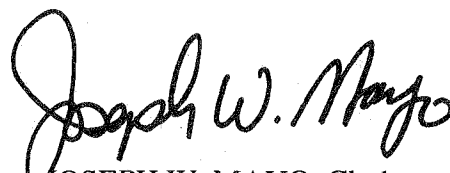
No. 1518

H.P. 1081

House of Representatives, March 13, 1997

**Resolve, to Establish the Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study
Commission.**

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative VOLENIK of Brooklin.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, FARNSWORTH of
Portland, GAGNE of Buckfield, JONES of Bar Harbor, SAMSON of Jay, SAXL of Bangor,
SHIAH of Bowdoinham.

2 **Sec. 1. Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study Commission**
3 **established. Resolved:** That the Maine Forest Policy Round Table
4 Study Commission, referred to in this resolve as the "round
5 table," is established; and be it further

6 **Sec. 2. Round table membership. Resolved:** That the round
7 table consists of at least the following 15 members:

- 8 1. One economist with forestry expertise;
- 9
- 10 2. One sociologist with expertise in rural issues;
- 11
- 12 3. One owner of more than 1,000 acres of forest land in the
13 State;
- 14
- 15 4. One owner of less than 1,000 acres of forest land in the
16 State;
- 17
- 18 5. One registered professional forester;
- 19
- 20 6. One logging contractor;
- 21
- 22 7. One logging employee who does nonmechanized harvesting;
- 23
- 24 8. One retired logger;
- 25
- 26 9. One owner of a sawmill in the State;
- 27
- 28 10. One paper industry representative;
- 29
- 30 11. One town manager from a township in the State whose
31 land total exceeds 50% in tree growth;
- 32
- 33 12. One representative of an environmental group working on
34 forestry issues;
- 35
- 36 13. One representative of a recreational-based group;
- 37
- 38 14. One representative of the Department of Conservation;
39 and
- 40
- 41 15. One member of the joint standing committee of the
42 Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation
43 and forestry matters.
- 44

45 The Legislature may appoint not more than 6 additional
46 members, as it considers necessary. Members shall serve for 2
47 years; and be it further

48 **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
49 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the

2 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
3 Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
4 authorities once the selections have been made. The President of
5 the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly appoint the
6 chair of the round table; and be it further

7
8 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the round table shall:

9
10 **1.** Study key forest economic and labor issues, including
11 the following issues identified by the Maine Council on
12 Sustainable Forest Management:

13
14 **A.** Raw log exports, labor imports, workers' compensation
15 issues, mechanization of timber harvesting and their impacts
16 on logging employment;

17
18 **B.** Regional shortages of timber harvesting work for loggers;

19
20 **C.** Piecework pay rates and its impact on loggers' safety
21 and incomes; and

22
23 **D.** The impact of current forest practices and corporate
24 decisions on the stability of local, forest-dependent
25 communities; and

26
27 **2.** Gather information, identify problems and set goals by:

28
29 **A.** Identifying existing processes that can assist in the
30 attainment of those goals;

31
32 **D.** Identifying barriers to attaining those goals, including
33 existing policy or legislation; and

34
35 **C.** Recommending modification of existing processes or
36 creation of new processes to overcome those barriers and
37 attain those goals.

38
39 The round table shall issue a report that assesses the
40 problems and makes recommendations for policy changes. The
41 changes may include research, education, demonstration, outreach,
42 tax policy or regulation. The round table shall hold public
43 meetings on its findings before submitting its report to the
44 Legislature; and be it further

45
46 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the round table shall
47 request staffing assistance from the Executive Director of the
48 Legislative Council; and be it further

49
50 **Sec. 6. Compensation. Resolved:** That members are entitled to
51 compensation for transportation costs and other compensation

2 if their participation would entail economic hardship; and be it
further

4 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the round table shall submit
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
6 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters
8 in the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature no later
than January 1, 2000.

10
12 **SUMMARY**

14 This resolve establishes the Maine Forest Policy Round Table
Study Commission to address and study key forestry issues,
16 including economic and labor issues, and to make recommendations
for changes in the State's forestry policy.