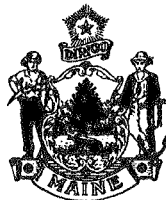


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1603

S.P. 519

In Senate, March 20, 1997

**Resolve, to Foster Economic Growth through the Recognition and
Development of Maine's Franco-American Resource.**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development suggested and
ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative DONNELLY of Presque Isle and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, JENKINS of Androscoggin, LaFOUNTAIN of York,
MICHAUD of Penobscot, Representatives: BROOKS of Winterport, CAMPBELL of Holden,
MADORE of Augusta, VIGUE of Winslow.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** a substantial percentage of Maine's citizens are
Franco-American by heritage, and the language and the culture of
Maine's Franco-Americans survives and is strong throughout the
8 State, from Biddeford and Sanford in southern Maine, Lewiston and
Waterville in central Maine to Madawaska, Fort Kent and the St.
10 John Valley in the far North; and

12 **Whereas,** the people of Maine wish to encourage the
development of the Franco-American resource to the benefit of all
14 Maine citizens, and the Franco-American Center at the University
of Maine at Orono has been a leading voice for the recognition of
16 Maine's Franco-American heritage and the development of its
Francophone resource; and

18 **Whereas,** the Maine business community has become
20 increasingly active in efforts to stimulate trade between Maine
and Quebec, through an effort known as "Co-Entreprise," a
22 cooperative venture between Maine and Quebec businesses headed by
the Maine Chamber and Business Alliance; and

24 **Whereas,** these efforts, in addition to many others, have
26 provided Maine with the opportunity to establish the national
headquarters of the Forum Francophone Des Affaires, an
28 international chamber of commerce for the French-speaking world;
and

30 **Whereas,** all of the people of the State of Maine stand to
32 benefit by the expansion of international trade through the Forum
Francophone Des Affaires and the many other ongoing efforts to
34 strengthen and utilize the resources of Maine's Franco-American
communities; and

36 **Whereas,** this legislation establishes the Commission to
38 Study the Development of Maine's Franco-American Resource and is
required to submit its report to the Second Regular Session of
40 the 118th Legislature by December 1, 1997; and

42 **Whereas,** in order for the appointments to be made, the
commission to be convened and the report to be submitted in a
44 timely fashion and in light of other provisions of this
legislation designed to take advantage of opportunities now
46 available to the people of the State of Maine, this legislation
must take effect immediately; and

48 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
50 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately

2 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
3 safety; now, therefore, be it

4 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission
5 to Study the Development of Maine's Franco-American Resource,
6 referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established;
7 and be it further

8 **Sec. 2. Issues. Resolved:** That the commission shall study and
9 report on the issues associated with Maine's Franco-American
10 community, particularly with regard to economic development
11 opportunities available to Maine because of its Franco-American
12 resource. The scope of the commission's study and report
13 includes, but is not limited to:

14 1. An analysis of demographic trends in Maine's
15 Franco-American community;

16 2. An analysis of the language skills, educational
17 attainment levels and technical capabilities of Maine's
18 Franco-American community;

19 3. An analysis of employment patterns among Maine citizens
20 with Francophone capabilities and opportunities available to
21 Maine businesses through utilization of the Francophone
22 resource;

23 4. An analysis of the interrelationship between cultural,
24 civic, business and community organizations in
25 Franco-American communities throughout the State, and the
26 maintenance and development of the Franco-American resource;

27 5. An analysis of the business opportunities available to
28 Maine citizens in industries likely to benefit through
29 international trade with the Francophone world, including,
30 but not limited to, the agriculture, forest products,
31 tourism, financial services and high-technology industries;
32 and

33 6. An analysis of the opportunities available to Maine
34 citizens to utilize the Francophone resource to develop a
35 competitive advantage in their markets, wherever those
36 markets are located, particularly with regard to the
37 agriculture, forest products, tourism, financial services
38 and high-technology industries; and be it further

39 **Sec. 3. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consist of
40 27 members appointed as follows:

41 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of
42 the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives
43 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

- 2 2. Two representatives of the Franco-American Center at the
University of Maine at Orono;
- 4
- 6 3. Two representatives of the Forum Francophone Des
Affaires;
- 8
- 10 4. Six representatives of business and civic communities
from areas of the State with a significant Franco-American
12 population, including at least one each from Aroostook
County, Penobscot County, Kennebec County, Androscoggin
County and York County;
- 14
- 16 5. Four representatives from the academic community,
including one each from the University of Maine System, the
18 Maine Technical College System, Maine's private kindergarten
through grade 12 school systems and Maine's public
kindergarten through grade 12 school systems;
- 20
- 22 6. Five representatives of the businesses and industries
likely to be benefited by the development of Maine's
24 Franco-American resource, including one each from the
agriculture, forest products, tourism, financial services
and high-technology industries;
- 26
- 28 7. One representative of the Maine International Trade
Center;
- 30
- 32 8. One representative of the Maine Chamber and Business
Alliance;
- 34
- 36 9. One representative of "Co-Entreprise"; and
- 38 10. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
who is an ex officio member.

38 With the exception of the ex officio member, the members of
the commission are selected as follows: the President of the
40 Senate shall make 9 appointments, the Speaker of the House of
Representatives shall make 9 appointments and the Governor shall
42 make 8 appointments. The commission shall, at its first meeting,
select a member to serve as chair; and be it further

44 **Sec. 4. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be
made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
46 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive
Director of the Legislative Council upon making their
48 appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete,
the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the
50 first meeting of the commission no later than 2 months from the
effective date of this resolve; and be it further

52

2 **Sec. 5. Staffing. Resolved:** That the commission shall request
3 staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative Council
4 and, if funding permits, the commission may employ staff as
5 needed and may contract for administrative, professional,
6 legislative drafting and clerical services; and be it further

7 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the commission members
8 who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per
9 diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section
10 2, for each day's attendance at meetings of the commission. All
11 members of the commission are entitled to reimbursement for
12 travel and other necessary expenses upon application to the
13 Legislative Council. The Executive Director of the Legislative
14 Council shall administer the commission's budget; and be it
15 further

16 **Sec. 7. Chair. Resolved:** That the Chair of the Legislative
17 Council shall call the first meeting of the commission as soon as
18 funding permits. At the first meeting or a subsequent meeting,
19 the commission may select a vice-chair from among its members and
20 establish programmatic and structural committees; and be it
21 further

22 **Sec. 8. Meetings. Resolved:** That the commission may meet as
23 often as necessary; and be it further

24 **Sec. 9. Funding. Resolved:** That the commission may seek,
25 accept and expend outside sources of funding to carry out the
26 commission's activities. The Legislative Council shall
27 administer any outside funds acquired for the purposes of this
28 resolve; and be it further

29 **Sec. 10. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall present
30 its findings and any recommended legislation to the Second
31 Regular Session of the 118th Legislature by December 1, 1997.

32 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
33 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

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41 **SUMMARY**

42 This bill establishes the Commission to Study the
43 Development of Maine's Franco-American Resource, which will
44 analyze the Franco-American community for demographic trends,
45 employment patterns and interrelationships among cultural, civic,
46 business and community organizations throughout the State. It
47 also will study opportunities with international trade and ways
48 to improve markets.

49
50