

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1708

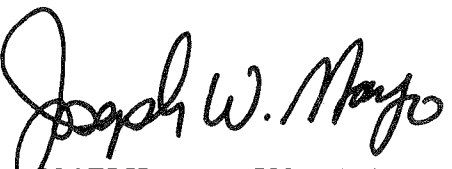
H.P. 1208

House of Representatives, April 1, 1997

**Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study the Issue of  
Discrimination against Veterans in Workers' Compensation Cases.**

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Reference to the Committee on Banking and Insurance suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LANE of Enfield. (By Request)  
Cosponsored by Senator RUHLIN of Penobscot and  
Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, DEXTER of Kingfield, MacDOUGALL of  
North Berwick, MERES of Norridgewock, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, TUTTLE of Sanford,  
Senator: CATHCART of Penobscot.

2           **Sec. 1. Commission created; charge. Resolved:** That the  
Commission to Study the Issue of Discrimination against Veterans  
4       in Workers' Compensation Cases, referred to in this resolve as  
the "commission," is established to examine whether  
6       discrimination exists on the part of insurance companies in the  
processing of workers' compensation cases in which the injured  
worker is a veteran; and be it further

8  
10           **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists  
of 7 members as follows:

12           1. Three members representing veterans groups, appointed by  
the Governor;

14  
16           2. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on Banking  
and Insurance, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate  
18       and the Speaker of the House, one of whom must be a member of the  
political party holding the majority of seats in the Legislature  
20       and one of whom must be a member of the political party holding  
the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

22           3. The Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation  
Board, or the director's designee; and

24  
26           4. The Superintendent of Insurance, or the superintendent's  
designee.

28           All appointments must be made no later than 30 days  
following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing  
30       authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the  
Legislative Council upon making their appointments. The  
32       Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall contact those  
authorities who have not made their appointments as of the  
34       required date; and be it further

36           **Sec. 3. Convening. Resolved:** That the Chair of the  
Legislative Council shall call the commission together for its  
38       first meeting no later than 15 days after adjournment of the  
First Regular Session of the 118th Legislature. If the first  
40       meeting is not called within the assigned time, the Governor  
shall call the first meeting for a date no later than 10 days  
42       after the initially required date. It is not necessary for all  
members to be appointed in order for the commission to meet. A  
44       quorum consists of a majority of those appointed; and be it  
further

46  
48           **Sec. 4. Chair. Resolved:** That the appointed Legislator who is  
senior in legislative experience shall act as chair of the first  
50       meeting. The commission shall select a permanent chair from  
among the legislative members at the conclusion of the first  
52       meeting; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Meetings. Resolved:** That the commission may hold 3 public meetings, including the initial organizational meeting; and be it further

**Sec. 6. Staffing. Resolved:** That the commission may request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council; and be it further

**Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the commission are entitled to reimbursement for expenses only; and be it further

**Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 15, 1997, the commission shall submit a written report together with any recommended implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance, with a copy to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the Law and Legislative Reference Library. The Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance is authorized to report out legislation during the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature concerning the findings and recommendations of the commission. If the commission requires an extension, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension.

## SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Commission to Study the Issue of Discrimination against Veterans in Workers' Compensation Cases.