

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1745

S.P. 580

In Senate, April 3, 1997

Resolve, to Direct the Land and Water Resources Council to Develop a Report and Proposed Actions to Control Mercury Emissions and Discharges.

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources 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 TREAT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln, Representatives: BERRY of Livermore,
BULL of Freeport.

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,** the 116th Legislature established the Land and
Water Resources Council, in part to study specific water resource
management issues and problems of statewide significance and
8 formulate policies that achieve the goal of protecting the
quality of Maine's water resources; and

10
12 **Whereas,** mercury is a persistent, bioaccumulative and highly
toxic metal that is found in air emissions and water discharges
from various facilities both within Maine and beyond its borders;
14 and

16 **Whereas,** mercury contamination from discharge and deposition
has caused fish consumption advisories in Maine water; and

18
20 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
22 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore, be it

24 **Sec. 1. Report and recommendations. Resolved:** That the Land
and Water Resources Council shall develop a long-range strategy
26 to evaluate and reduce the levels and sources of mercury
contamination affecting Maine's environment. The council may
28 seek the advice and support of the Maine Environmental Priorities
Project, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and other
30 groups in completing this task. The strategy includes, but is
not be limited to, the following:

32
34 1. A description of the levels and locations of mercury
contamination that are known or suspected to exist in Maine's
36 environment;

38 2. A survey of sources and quantities of mercury discharged
to or deposited into Maine's natural resources. This survey
40 should include both in-state and out-of-state sources and
estimates of relative contribution;

42 3. Recommendations for further data acquisition, if
44 necessary; and

46 4. Recommendations for regulatory, legislative, pollution
prevention or technical assistance actions to reduce mercury
48 contamination; and be it further

