

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 175, L.D. 253, "Resolve, to Cable Televising the Proceedings of the Legislature"

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

'Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study the Feasibility of Televising Senate and House Sessions'

Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

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

Whereas, public awareness and knowledge of the Legislature and its proceedings are critical to maintaining an informed citizenry; and

Whereas, live and taped broadcasts could provide nearly every citizen of the State access to legislative proceedings; and

Whereas, cable, commercial and public broadcasters in the State have expressed an interest in televising legislative proceedings; and

Whereas, the televising of legislative proceedings has significant implications for the future conduct of business in the Senate and the House; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

A d S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 175, L.D. 253

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

8 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission
9 to Study the Feasibility of Televising Senate and House Sessions,
10 referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established;
11 and be it further

12 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
13 15 members appointed as follows:

14 1. Four members of the Senate, appointed by the President
15 of the Senate;

16 2. Five members of the House of Representatives, appointed
17 by the Speaker of the House;

18 3. The Secretary of the Senate or the secretary's designee;

19 4. The Clerk of the House or the clerk's designee;

20 5. One member of the television industry who represents
21 public broadcasting, appointed by the President of the Senate;

22 6. One member who represents the cable broadcasting
23 industry, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

24 7. One member who represents a statewide organization of
25 television and radio broadcasters, appointed by the President of
26 the Senate; and

27 8. One member who represents the Maine Historic
28 Preservation Commission and who has expertise in the history of
29 the State House and its legislative chambers, appointed by the
30 Governor; and be it further

31 **Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be
32 made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
33 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive
34 Director of the Legislative Council upon making their
35 appointments; and be it further

36 **Sec. 4. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first named Senate member
37 is the Senate chair and the first named House member is the House
38 chair; and be it further

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2 **Sec. 5. Meetings. Resolved:** That the cochairs of the
commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the
4 commission within 30 days of the date that the last member is
appointed; and be it further

6 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That upon approval of the
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
8 shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and
be it further

10 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the commission members
12 who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per
diem and reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance
14 at authorized meetings of the commission. All members of the
commission are entitled to reimbursement of necessary expenses to
16 attend authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

18 **Sec. 8. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
feasibility of televising Senate and House sessions. In
20 examining these issues, the commission shall review:

22 1. The experience of other states that have broadcast their
state legislative proceedings;

24 2. Ways to accomplish the televising of Senate and House
26 proceedings without diminishing the aesthetics and historical
value of the chambers and the State House. The Maine Historic
28 Preservation Commission shall assist the commission in this
effort; and

30 3. The proposed costs associated with implementing and
32 maintaining a system to televise Senate and House proceedings and
the potential sources of funding to cover those costs; and be it
34 further

36 **Sec. 9. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit a
report with any accompanying legislation to the First Regular
38 Session of the 120th Legislature by December 15, 2000. If the
commission requires a limited extension of time to conclude its
40 study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative
Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

42 **Sec. 10. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
44 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
this resolve.

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of S.

2000-01

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LEGISLATURE

**Commission to Study the Feasibility
of Televising Senate and House Sessions**

Personal Services	\$3,465
All Other	5,400

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and expenses for other eligible members of the Commission to Study the Feasibility of Televising Senate and House Sessions and to print the required report.

**LEGISLATURE
TOTAL**

\$8,865

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

Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

2000-01

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund	\$8,865
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This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of \$8,865 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and other eligible members of the Commission to Study the Feasibility of Televising Senate and House Sessions and to print the required report.

The additional costs associated with providing staffing assistance to the commission during the interim between legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted resources.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission will incur some minor additional costs to serve as a member of the commission. These costs can be absorbed within the commission's existing budgeted resources.'

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 175, L.D. 253

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SUMMARY

This amendment to the original resolve establishes the 15-member Commission to Study the Feasibility of Televising Senate and House Sessions. It requires the commission to report to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature by December 15, 2000. The amendment also adds an appropriation section and a fiscal note.