

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 304

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H.P. 226

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

**Resolve, to Establish the State Office Building Location Task Force.**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GAGNON of Waterville.  
Cosponsored by Senator CAREY of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BAGLEY of Machias, BRENNAN of Portland, COWGER of Hallowell,  
O'NEIL of Saco, TESSIER of Fairfield.

2           **Whereas,** local, state and federal public agencies have  
historically located their offices in service center communities;  
and

4

6           **Whereas,** these offices have most often been located in the  
traditional downtown areas of service center communities; and

8           **Whereas,** there is a growing tendency for public agencies to  
shift locations of their offices away from downtown areas to  
10 commercial strips and away from service centers to suburban  
communities; and

12

14           **Whereas,** these relocations of public agency offices may  
have a devastating impact on the economic and social vitality of  
a downtown area or a service center community; and

16

18           **Whereas,** the Legislature has determined that these service  
center communities not only are essential to the economic health  
of the State but also can play important roles in the efficient  
20 delivery of state, local and regional services; now, therefore,  
be it

22

24           **Sec. 1. Task force created. Resolved:** That, because community  
service centers in Maine are vital to job creation and the  
delivery of critical services, the State Office Building Location  
26 Task Force, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is  
created to assess the impact of state office buildings in  
downtown service centers within regional service center  
28 communities and to recommend ways to ensure continued location of  
state office buildings within both those service communities and  
30 their traditional downtown service centers; and be it further

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34           **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists  
of the following 7 members:

36           1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of  
the Senate;

38

40           2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed  
by the Speaker of the House; and

42           3. A representative of the Department of Administrative and  
Financial Services, appointed by the Governor; and

44

46           4. A representative from a Federal Government department or  
agency, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the  
Speaker of the House; and be it further

48

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

8           **Sec. 4. Meetings. Resolved:** That the Chair of the Legislative  
Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the task  
10          force within 30 days of the date that the last member is  
appointed. The task force may hold up to 3 meetings; and be it  
12          further

14          **Sec. 5. Chair. Resolved:** That the President of the Senate and  
the Speaker of the House shall each appoint from among the  
16          members of the task force a cochair of the task force within 30  
days of the effective date of this resolve; and be it further

18          **Sec. 6. Compensation. Resolved:** That Legislative members are  
entitled to receive per diem compensation, as defined in the  
20          Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2. All members are  
entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in carrying out  
22          their duties. Application for compensation and reimbursement  
must be made to the Executive Director of the Legislative  
24          Council; and be it further

26          **Sec. 7. Staff. Resolved:** That the Bureau of General Services  
within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services  
28          shall provide staff support to the task force; and be it further

30          **Sec. 8. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall consider  
in its assessments and recommendations the conclusions and  
32          recommendations of the Task Force on Regional Service Center  
Communities contained in its report, "Reviving Service Centers"  
34          (State Planning Office, September, 1998). The task force shall:

36                 1. Assess the role of state office buildings in the  
continued viability of downtown service centers within the State;

38                 2. Analyze recent trends in relocating state and federal  
40                 agency offices from downtown service centers to commercial strips  
and from service centers to suburban communities;

42                 3. Assess how other states have responded to these trends;  
44                 and

46                 4. Recommend appropriate legislation to ensure that state  
48                 offices continue to enhance the historic role of downtown service  
centers within the State's community service centers; and be it  
50                 further

2           **Sec. 9. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit  
its report with any necessary implementing legislation to the  
4           Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature no later than  
February 15, 2000.

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### SUMMARY

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10           This resolve creates the State Office Building Location Task  
Force to assess the impact of relocating state offices away from  
service center communities and away from traditional downtown  
12           service centers.