

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

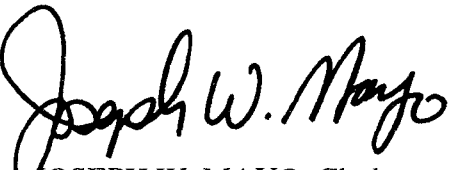
No. 712

H.P. 505

House of Representatives, January 26, 1999

**Resolve, Creating a Task Force to Investigate the Effects of Unratified
International Treaties Implemented by State Agencies.**

Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SNOWE-MELLO of Poland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FOSTER of Gray, JOY of Crystal, MacDOUGALL of
North Berwick, STEDMAN of Hartland, TRAHAN of Waldoboro, TREADWELL of Carmel,
WATERHOUSE of Bridgton, Senator: BENOIT of Franklin.

2 **Preamble. Whereas,** the State of Maine is not obligated to
adhere to the conditions set forth in international treaties that
are not formally ratified by the United States Senate; and

4
6 **Whereas,** the United States Senate has not ratified the
conventions of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change, or the subsequent Kyoto Protocols on greenhouse
8 gas emissions; and

10 **Whereas,** State Government agencies have participated in a
task force on global climate change, which has recommended
12 adherence to international goals for greenhouse gas emissions as
set forth by the United Nations climate change conventions; and

14
16 **Whereas,** more than 17,000 scientists, two-thirds of whom
have advanced degrees in physical sciences, have signed a
petition asserting that "there is no convincing scientific
18 evidence" that greenhouse gases are causing global warming; and

20 **Whereas,** unilateral implementation of greenhouse gas
emission controls by either the federal or state governments
22 would not significantly reduce greenhouse gases as long as the
136 developing nations are exempt from the Kyoto Protocols; and

24
26 **Whereas,** establishment of state policy based on unratified
international treaties, such as those proposed for climate change
and biological diversity, threatens the long-term economic health
28 of many Maine industries; now, therefore, be it

30 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Task Force
to Investigate the Effect of Implementation by State Agencies of
32 Unratified International Treaties, referred to in this resolve as
the "task force," is established; and be it further

34
36 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists
of 16 members appointed as follows:

38 1. One Democratic member of the State Senate appointed by
the Senate President;

40
42 2. One Republican member of the State Senate appointed by
the Senate Republican leader;

44 3. Two Democratic members of the House of Representatives,
appointed by the Speaker of the House;

46
48 4. Two Republican members of the House of Representatives,
appointed by the Republican floor leader;

2 5. One member of the Maine Taxpayers Party, appointed by
the chair of the Maine Taxpayers Party;

4 6. One member of the Maine Libertarian Party, appointed by
the chair of the Maine Libertarian Party;

6 7. Two members from the Maine Conservation Rights
8 Institute, appointed by the president of the Maine Conservation
Rights Institute;

10 8. Two members from Sovereignty International, appointed by
12 the president of Sovereignty International;

14 9. Two members from Unorganized Territories United,
appointed by the president of Unorganized Territories United; and

16 10. Two members from the Maine Property Rights Alliance,
18 appointed by the president of the Maine Property Rights Alliance;
and be it further

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

26 **Sec. 4. Meetings. Resolved:** That the Chair of the Legislative
28 Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the task
force within 30 days of the date that the last task force member
30 is appointed; and be it further

32 **Sec. 5. Chair. Resolved:** That the members of the task force
shall appoint a task force chair from among its members at the
34 first meeting of the task force; and be it further

36 **Sec. 6. Staff. Resolved:** That upon the approval of the
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
38 shall provide staff support to the task force; and be it further

40 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That all members of the task
force are entitled to reimbursement for travel and other
42 necessary expenses, upon application to the Legislative Council.
The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall
44 administer the task force's budget; and be it further

46 **Sec. 8. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall study the
effect of state agencies implementing international treaties that
48 have not been ratified by the United States Senate. In examining
these issues, the task force shall:

50

2 1. Identify established and recommended state policies that
3 attempt to enforce the recommendations or goals of unratified
4 international treaties, particularly those related to global
5 climate change and biological diversity;

6 2. Investigate the role of various state agencies in
7 studying, implementing or recommending implementation of the
8 conditions set forth in unratified international treaties;

10 3. Estimate the economic and social effects of state
11 agencies' adoption of, or adherence to, the conditions of
12 unratified international treaties; and

14 4. Develop a final task force report, including, if
15 necessary, recommended legislation that reflects the conclusions
16 of the task force; and be it further

18 **Sec. 9. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit
19 its report with any accompanying legislation to the Second
20 Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by January 31, 2000.

22

SUMMARY

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26 This bill establishes a task force to investigate the impact
on state agencies of unratified international treaties such as
the conventions on climate change and biodiversity.