

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: March 29, 1999

(Filing No. S- 45 )

**UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 261, L.D. 756, "Resolve, to Create a Task Force to Study Ways to Improve and Streamline the Regulation of Water Utilities"

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 2. Task force membership; chair. Resolved:** That the task force consists of the following 14 members:

1. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
2. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
3. One representative from the Public Utilities Commission, appointed by the chair of the commission;
4. The Public Advocate or the Public Advocate's designee;
5. One representative from the Maine Public Drinking Water Control Program, appointed by the Director of the Division of Health Engineering within the Department of Human Services;
6. One representative of a water utility serving populations greater than 100,000 people, appointed by the Governor;
7. Two representatives of water utilities serving populations of at least 10,001 people, but not more than 100,000 people, one of whom must be an elected or appointed official of such a water utility, appointed by the Governor;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

2 8. Two representatives of water utilities serving  
4 populations of at least 3,301 people, but not more than 10,000  
6 people, one of whom must be an elected or appointed official of  
such a water utility, appointed by the Governor;

8 9. Two representatives of water utilities serving  
10 populations of not more than 3,300 people, one of whom must be an  
elected or appointed official of such a water utility, appointed  
by the Governor;

12 10. A representative of the Maine Water Utilities  
14 Association, designated by the association; and

16 11. The Executive Director of the Maine Rural Water  
Association.

18 At the task force's first meeting, the members shall elect a  
20 chair; and be it further'

22 Further amend the resolve in section 3 in the 4th line (page  
2, line 38 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "chair" and  
24 inserting in its place the following: 'Senate member'

26 Further amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 4  
and 5 and inserting in their place the following:

28 '**Sec. 4. Staffing. Resolved:** That the State Planning Office  
30 shall provide staff assistance to the task force. If the task  
force requires assistance with the preparation of any recommended  
32 legislation, it may request, and upon approval from the  
Legislative Council receive, assistance from the Office of Policy  
and Legal Analysis; and be it further

34 **Sec. 5. Compensation. Resolved:** Legislative members are  
36 entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement of  
necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of  
38 the task force group. Public members not otherwise compensated  
by their employers or other entities whom they represent are  
40 entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and a per  
diem equal to the legislative per diem for their attendance at  
42 authorized meetings of the task force; and be it further'

44 Further amend the resolve in section 6 in the 4th line (page  
3, line 2 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "15, 2000."  
46 and inserting in its place the following: '1, 2000; and be it  
further'

48 Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the  
50 emergency clause the following:



2 The additional costs associated with providing staff  
3 assistance to the task force can be absorbed by the State  
4 Planning Office utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

6  
8 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment does the following.

12 1. It changes the membership of the Task Force to Study the  
13 Regulation of Water Utilities by adding a Senator, a  
14 Representative and 3 representatives of smaller water utilities  
15 and by removing a representative of the Department of  
16 Environmental Protection.

18 2. It requires the task force to elect its chair from its  
19 members and requires the Senate member to call the first meeting  
20 of the task force.

22 3. It provides for compensation for legislative and public  
23 members of the task force.

24 4. It authorizes the task force to seek assistance from the  
25 Office of Policy and Legal Analysis in drafting any recommended  
26 legislation.

28 5. It moves the reporting date to January 1, 2000.

30 6. It adds an appropriation and fiscal note to the resolve.