

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

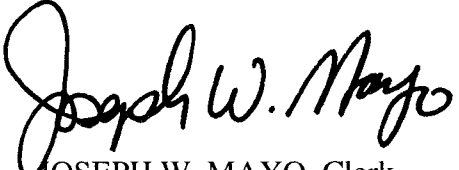
No. 1550

H.P. 1103

House of Representatives, February 25, 1999

**Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study the Improvement of Public
Water Supply Protection.**

Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative COWGER of Hallowell.
Cosponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec and
Representatives: BULL of Freeport, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McALEVEY of Waterboro,
McKEE of Wayne, McKENNEY of Cumberland, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, TOBIN of
Windham, Senator: KONTOS of Cumberland.

2 **Preamble.** Whereas, public water supply protection is a
voluntary activity, wherein the water supplier has limited power
to protect its own resources; and

4
6 **Whereas,** contamination with bacteria, nitrates, hydrocarbon
and fuel products and pesticides and other toxic chemicals
remains a common concern for public water suppliers in Maine
8 despite existing programs; and

10 **Whereas,** the Governor has made the protection of public
water supplies a priority in plans for providing safe water to
12 the citizens of the State; and

14 **Whereas,** recent events have demonstrated the susceptibility
of public water supply wells to unexpected contamination; now,
16 therefore, be it

18 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Public Water
Supply Protection Task Force, referred to in this resolve as the
20 "task force," is established to study the improvement of public
water supply protection; and be it further

22 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists
24 of 17 members appointed as follows:

26 1. Four Legislators, 2 of whom must be Senators, appointed
by the President of the Senate and 2 of whom must be members of
28 the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
House;

30 2. One member representing the Department of Human
32 Services, appointed by the Commissioner of Human Services;

34 3. One member representing the Department of Environmental
Protection, appointed by the Commissioner of Environmental
36 Protection;

38 4. One member representing the Department of Conservation,
appointed by the Commissioner of Conservation;

40 5. One member representing the Department of Inland
42 Fisheries and Wildlife, appointed by the Commissioner of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife;

44 6. One member representing the Department of
46 Transportation, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation;
and

48 7. Eight public members appointed by the Governor
50 representing consumer-owned water utilities, investor-owned water

2 utilities, the petroleum industry, municipalities, business
owners and the real estate industry; and be it further

4 **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
6 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
8 authorities once the selections have been made. Within 15 days
after the completion of the appointment of all members, the Chair
10 of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the first
meeting of the task force. The task force shall select a chair
12 from among its members; and be it further

14 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall:

16 1. Review existing protections for public water supplies
including any regulations pursuant thereto; and

18 2. Identify steps to improve protection of public water
20 supply wells and intakes from the following threats:

22 A. New septic system installations;

24 B. Petroleum storage facilities;

26 C. Facilities handling or storing in excess of 10 gallons
of hazardous materials;

28 D. Facilities handling or selling pesticides; and

30 E. The spreading of sludge or other residuals; and be it
32 further

34 **Sec. 5. Staff. Resolved:** That the task force shall request
staffing assistance from the Department of Environmental
36 Protection and the Department of Human Services; and be it further

38 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the task force members
who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per
40 diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section
2, for each day's attendance at meetings of the task force and
42 reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses upon
application to the Legislative Council; and be it further

44 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit
46 its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human

2 Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources by
January 15, 2000; and be it further

4 **Sec. 8. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
6 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
this resolve.

8 **2000-01**

10 **LEGISLATURE**

12 **Public Water Supply Protection Task Force**

14	Personal Services	\$1,760
	All Other	1,600

16

18 Provides funds for the per diem and expenses
of Legislative members for 8 meetings.

20	LEGISLATURE	
	TOTAL	<u>\$3,360</u>

22

24

SUMMARY

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28 This resolve establishes the Public Water Supply Protection
Task Force to review existing protections for public water
30 supplies and to identify steps to improve protection of public
water supply wells and intakes. The task force shall submit its
report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
32 Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources by
January 15, 2000.