



## **119th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## **FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999**

Legislative Document

No. 1665

S.P. 585

In Senate, March 4, 1999

Resolve, to Promote Natural Resource-based Industries.

Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln. Cosponsored by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town and Senators: President LAWRENCE of York, NUTTING of Androscoggin, PARADIS of Aroostook, PINGREE of Knox, Representatives: HONEY of Boothbay, McGLOCKLIN of Embden, PIEH of Bremen, Speaker ROWE of Portland. **Preamble. Whereas,** natural resource-based industries are the foundation of the State's economy; and

Whereas, the number of individuals entering farming, fishing and forestry is declining steadily; and

Whereas, natural resource-based industries are nonmobile industries rooted in the culture and ecology of the State, placing the State in a unique position; now, therefore, be it further

Sec. 1. Business development; education programs. Resolved: That the State Planning Office shall submit a report to the Second
Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by January 1, 2000 that:

16 Examines the resources available to business development 1. and specifically how funds are dedicated to development in the natural resource-based industries. The report must specifically 18 review the proportions of dollars spent on economic development 20 and the percentage of those dollars that are aimed at natural resource-based industries. The report must also include an analysis of the proportions spent on fishing, farming and 22 forestry and propose a plan to make those proportions more 24 equitable;

 Analyzes existing education programs and the status of workforce wages and benefits and the average age and availability
of workers to fill the current needs of natural resource-based industries; and

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Develops a proposal based on the analysis pursuant to
subsection 2 to establish education programs for secondary and
postsecondary schools, including vocational and technical college
systems, with the aim of increasing the number of trained
entrants into the natural resource-based industries.

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## **SUMMARY**

40 This resolve directs the State Planning Office to develop a report that:

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 Proposes ways to ensure that state resources dedicated
to natural resource-based industries are equitable with state resources dedicated to other business development;

Analyzes the current needs of the workforce for natural
resource-based industries and the education programs that service
this workforce; and

Proposes new education programs that will encourage individuals to enter into the fishing, farming and forestry industry.

6 The report will be submitted to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by January 1, 2000.