

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2005

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DATE: 4/27/00

(Filing No. S-771)

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

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1400, L.D. 2005, "Resolve, to Establish the Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study Commission"

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the 2nd indented paragraph after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the forest products industry is an integral part of the Maine rural economy and key economic and labor issues must be reviewed to keep the industry competitive; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Round table established. Resolved: That the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry, referred to in this resolve as the "round table," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Round table membership. Resolved: That the round table consists of 19 members appointed or designated as follows.

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- 2 1. The Speaker of the House shall appoint 8 members as
follows:
- 4 A. One landowner of less than 1,000 acres in the State;
- 6 B. One sociologist with expertise in rural issues;
- 8 C. One independent logger from a region of the State
10 impacted by the H2-A Bonded Labor Program;
- 12 D. One economist with forestry expertise;
- 14 E. One owner or representative of a large sawmill;
- 16 F. One owner or representative of a small sawmill; and
- 18 G. Two members who at the time of appointment are members
20 of the House of Representatives and serve on either the
Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and
22 Forestry or the Joint Standing Committee on Labor or who
have experience in a forest-based industry. Appointments of
24 House members must include at least one member of the Joint
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
and at least one member of the party holding the 2nd largest
26 number of seats in the House.
- 28 2. The President of the Senate shall appoint 8 members as
follows:
- 30 A. One municipal or county official with expertise in tree
32 growth tax issues and the administration of the tree growth
tax law;
- 34 B. One representative of a paper company;
- 36 C. One logger residing in southern Maine;
- 38 D. One logging contractor residing and operating in
40 northern Maine;
- 42 E. One landowner or representative of a landowner owning
more than 1,000 acres in the State;
- 44 F. One representative of an environmental organization
46 working on forestry issues; and
- 48 G. Two members who at the time of appointment are members
of the Senate and serve on either the Joint Standing
Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the
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2 Joint Standing Committee on Labor or who have experience in
a forest-based industry. Appointments of Senate members
4 must include at least one member of the Joint Standing
Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and at
6 least one member who is not a member of the party holding
the largest number of seats in the Senate.

8 3. The following 3 members shall also serve as voting
members of the round table:

10 A. The Commissioner of Conservation or the commissioner's
12 designee;

14 B. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's
16 designee; and

18 C. The Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry
and Agriculture, University of Maine or the dean's designee;
20 and be it further

22 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first Senate member named
is the Senate chair of the round table and the first House member
24 named is the House chair of the round table; and be it further

26 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening round table. Resolved:** That all
appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
28 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
Legislative Council must be notified by the appointing
30 authorities once the selections have been made. The chairs shall
call and convene the first meeting of the round table within 30
32 days of completion of all appointments; and be it further

34 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the round table shall:

36 1. Study key economic and labor issues related to the
forest products industry with the goals of helping to keep more
38 value-added wood processing in the State and make logging a more
respected and more attractive profession, thus benefiting the
40 rural Maine economy. Issues studied must include:

42 A. An assessment of the import and export of roundwood and
other wood products as determined by the round table; the
44 market forces and government policies in Maine, the United
States and other countries that impact this trade; the
46 status of value-added manufacturing; and the relationship of
these issues to employment in Maine;

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2 B. An evaluation of trends in logging, including changes in
mechanization, logger training and education, workers'
4 compensation and insurance, employment relationships, types
of wood measurement and means of payment; and

6 C. An assessment of regional variations in and seasonal
capacity of the logging labor force in Maine, policies both
8 within Maine and in nearby Canadian provinces and factors,
including current and projected resource availability,
10 transportation costs, market forces and imperfections and
geographic locations, that might impact wage and employment
12 opportunities for Maine workers;

14 2. Assess problems within its area of study and develop
recommendations. In developing its recommendations, the round
16 table shall consider the impact of these recommendations on the
competitive position of Maine's forest-based industry and on any
18 specific segment of the industry and consistencies and
inconsistencies with state and federal policy; and

20 3. Provide public notice of all of its meetings. The round
22 table shall issue a report of its findings and may make
recommendations for policy changes. The round table shall
24 advertise a public meeting to invite comment on its findings
before submitting a final report to the Legislature; and be it
26 further

28 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That upon approval of the
Legislative Council the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall
30 provide staffing services to the round table. The Department of
Labor and the Maine Forest Service within the Department of
32 Conservation shall also provide assistance as requested by the
round table; and be it further

34 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That those members of the
36 round table who are Legislators are entitled to receive
legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes,
38 Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and other
necessary expenses related to their attendance at meetings of the
40 round table; and be it further

42 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the round table shall submit
its report, together with any recommended implementing
44 legislation, to the 120th Legislature no later than December 5,
2001. If the round table requires an extension of time to make
46 its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may
grant the extension; and be it further

48 **Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the round table,
50 with assistance from the round table staff, shall

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2 administer the round table's budget. Within 10 days after its
first meeting, the round table shall present a work plan and
4 proposed budget to the Legislative Council for approval. The
round table may not incur expenses that would result in the round
6 table's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the
round table, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council
8 shall promptly provide the round table chairs and staff with a
status report on the round table's budget, expenditures incurred
and paid and available funds; and be it further

10 **Sec. 10. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
12 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
this resolve.

14 2000-01

16 **LEGISLATURE**

18 **Round Table to Study Economic and**
20 **Labor Issues Relating to the Forest**
22 **Products Industry**

24	Personal Services	\$880
	All Other	2,800

26 Provides funds for the per diem and expenses
of legislative members of the Round Table to
28 Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to
the Forest Products Industry and for public
30 meeting notices.

32 **LEGISLATURE**
34 **TOTAL** \$3,680

36 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.'

38 **FISCAL NOTE**

40 This amendment reduces the General Fund cost of the resolve
42 by \$6,100 in fiscal year 2000-01.

44 As amended, this resolve includes a General Fund
46 appropriation of \$3,680 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the
Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members
of the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to
48 the Forest Products Industry and to provide public meeting
notices for all meetings. The estimated future cost in fiscal

1003

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2 year 2001-02 will be approximately \$7,020 and includes the cost
to conduct one public hearing and to print the required report.

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SUMMARY

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8 This amendment strikes the bill. The amendment clarifies
the appointment of members to the study commission. The
10 amendment also clarifies that the first meeting must be convened
within 30 days after all appointments have been made.

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SPONSORED BY: Michael H. Michaud
(Senator MICHAUD)

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COUNTY: Penobscot *QJB*

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