

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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RWS

L.D. 2005

DATE: 3-9-00

(Filing No. H-865)

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6 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**
8 **MAJORITY**

10 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of
12 the House.

14 **STATE OF MAINE**
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
16 **119TH LEGISLATURE**
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

22 Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting
24 the following:

26 **'Resolve, to Establish the Round Table to Study Economic and
Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry'**

28 Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after
30 the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the
following:

32 **'Sec. 1. Round table established. Resolved:** That the Round
34 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

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

40 1. The Governor shall appoint 6 members as follows:

42 A. One economist with forestry expertise;

44 B. One owner or representative of a large sawmill;

46 C. One owner or representative of a small sawmill;

48 D. One logging contractor residing and operating in
50 northern Maine;

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2 E. One landowner or representative of a landowner owning
more than 1,000 acres in the State; and

4 F. One representative of an environmental organization
working on forestry issues.

6
8 2. The Speaker of the House shall appoint 5 members as
follows:

10 A. One landowner of less than 1,000 acres in the State;

12 B. One sociologist with expertise in rural issues;

14 C. One independent logger from a region of the State
impacted by the H2-A Bonded Labor Program; and

16
18 D. Two members who at the time of appointment are members
of the House of Representatives and serve on either the
20 Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and
Forestry or the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.
22 Appointments of House members must include at least one
member of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture,
24 Conservation and Forestry and at least one member of the
party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the House.

26 3. The President of the Senate shall appoint 5 members as
follows:

28
30 A. One municipal or county official with expertise in tree
growth tax issues and the administration of the tree growth
tax law;

32
34 B. One representative of a paper company;

36 C. One logger residing in southern Maine; and

38 D. Two members who at the time of appointment are members
of the Senate and serve on either the Joint Standing
40 Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the
Joint Standing Committee on Labor. Appointments of Senate
42 members must include at least one member of the Joint
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
44 and at least one member of the party holding the 2nd largest
number of seats in the Senate.

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

48
50 A. The Commissioner of Conservation or the commissioner's
designee;

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

4
6 C. The Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry
and Agriculture, University of Maine or the dean's designee;
and be it further

8
10 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first Senate member named
is the Senate chair of the round table and the first House member
named is the House chair of the round table; and be it further

12
14 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening round table. Resolved:** That all
appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
16 Legislative Council must be notified by the appointing
authorities once the selections have been made. The chairs shall
18 call and convene the first meeting of the round table; and be it
further

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

22
24 1. Study key economic and labor issues related to the
forest products industry, with the goals of helping to keep more
value-added wood processing in the State and make logging a more
26 respected and more attractive profession, thus benefiting the
rural Maine economy. Issues studied must include:

28
30 A. An assessment of the import and export of roundwood and
other wood products as determined by the round table; the
market forces and government policies in Maine, the United
32 States and other countries that impact this trade; the
status of value-added manufacturing; and the relationship of
34 these issues to employment in Maine;

36
38 B. An evaluation of trends in logging, including changes in
mechanization, logger training and education, workers'
compensation and insurance, employment relationships, types
of wood measurement and means of payment; and

40
42 C. An assessment of regional variations in and seasonal
capacity of the logging labor force in Maine, policies both
within Maine and in nearby Canadian provinces and factors,
44 including current and projected resource availability,
transportation costs, market forces and imperfections and
46 geographic locations, that might impact wage and employment
opportunities for Maine workers;

48

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

8 3. Provide public notice of all of its meetings. The round
9 table shall issue a report of its findings and may make
10 recommendations for policy changes. The round table shall
11 advertise a public meeting to invite comment on its findings
12 before submitting a final report to the Legislature; and be it
13 further

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

19 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That those members of the
20 round table who are Legislators are entitled to receive
21 legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes,
22 Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and other
23 necessary expenses related to their attendance at meetings of the
24 round table. Other members of the round table who are not
25 compensated by their employers or other entities whom they
26 represent are entitled to receive reimbursement for travel and
27 other necessary expenses related to their attendance at meetings
28 of the round table; and be it further

29 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the round table shall submit
30 its report, together with any recommended implementing
31 legislation, to the 120th Legislature no later than December 5,
32 2001. If the round table requires an extension of time to make
33 its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may
34 grant the extension; and be it further

35 **Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the round table,
36 with assistance from the round table staff, shall administer the
37 round table's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting,
38 the round table shall present a work plan and proposed budget to
39 the Legislative Council for approval. The round table may not
40 incur expenses that would result in the round table exceeding its
41 approved budget. Upon request from the round table, the
42 Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly
43 provide the round table chairs and staff with a status report on
44 the round table's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and
45 available funds; and be it further

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

2000-01

LEGISLATURE

Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry

Personal Services	\$880
All Other	9,600

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and expenses of other eligible members of the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry, for public meeting notices, to conduct one public hearing and to print the required report.

**LEGISLATURE
TOTAL**

\$10,480'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

2000-01

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund	\$10,480
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This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of \$10,480 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and the expenses of other eligible members of the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry, to provide public meeting notices for all meetings, to conduct one public hearing and to print the required report.

The additional costs associated with providing staffing assistance to the round table during the interim between legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing

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2 existing budgeted resources. If the round table requires
3 staffing assistance during the legislative session, the
4 Legislature may require an additional General Fund appropriation
5 to contract for staff services.

6 The Department of Conservation and the Department of Labor
7 will incur some minor additional costs to participate as members
8 of the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to
9 the Forest Products Industry and to provide staffing assistance.
10 These costs can be absorbed within the departments' existing
11 budgeted resources.

12
13 The additional costs associated with participating as a
14 member of the round table can be absorbed by the University of
15 Maine System utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

18

SUMMARY

20

21 This amendment is the majority report. This resolve
22 establishes the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues
23 Relating to the Forest Products Industry. The round table is
24 directed to study trends in the logging industry, including
25 employment relationships, the dynamics of import and export
26 markets for roundwood and other forest products and the status of
27 value-added manufacturing within the forest products industry.
28 The round table is directed to hold a public meeting on its
29 findings and to submit a report to the 120th Legislature by
30 December 5, 2001. The amendment also adds an appropriation
section and a fiscal note.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT