

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2005

H.P. 1400

House of Representatives, March 23, 1999

**Resolve, to Establish the Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study
Commission.**

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative VOLENIK of Brooklin.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRYANT of Dixfield, DUDLEY of Portland, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, GAGNE of Buckfield, GREEN of Monmouth, HATCH of Skowhegan, SAMSON of Jay, Senator: DOUGLASS of Androscoggin.

2 **Sec. 1. Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study Commission**
3 **established. Resolved:** That the Maine Forest Policy Round Table
4 Study Commission, referred to in this resolve as the "round
5 table," is established; and be it further

6 **Sec. 2. Round table membership. Resolved:** That the round
7 table consists of at least the following 15 members, appointed
8 jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives, except as otherwise indicated:

- 10 1. One economist with forestry expertise;
- 11 2. One sociologist with expertise in rural issues;
- 12 3. One owner of more than 1,000 acres of forest land in the
13 State;
- 14 4. One owner of less than 1,000 acres of forest land in the
15 State;
- 16 5. One registered professional forester;
- 17 6. One logging contractor;
- 18 7. One logging employee who does nonmechanized harvesting;
- 19 8. One retired logger;
- 20 9. One owner of a sawmill in the State;
- 21 10. One paper industry representative;
- 22 11. One town manager from a township in the State whose
23 land total exceeds 50% in tree growth;
- 24 12. One representative of an environmental group working on
25 forestry issues;
- 26 13. One representative of a recreational-based group;
- 27 14. One representative of the Department of Conservation,
28 appointed by the Commissioner of Conservation; and
- 29 15. One member of the joint standing committee of the
30 Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation
31 and forestry matters.

32 The Legislature may appoint not more than 6 additional
33 members, as it considers necessary. Members shall serve for 2
34 years; and be it further

2 **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
3 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
4 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
5 Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
6 authorities once the selections have been made and shall convene
7 the first meeting no later than 60 days following the effective
8 date of this resolve. The President of the Senate and the
9 Speaker of the House shall jointly appoint the chair of the round
10 table; and be it further

12 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the round table shall:

14 1. Study key forest economic and labor issues, including
15 the following issues identified by the Maine Council on
16 Sustainable Forest Management:

18 A. Raw log exports, labor imports, workers' compensation
19 issues and mechanization of timber harvesting and the
20 impacts of these issues on logging employment;

22 B. Regional shortages of timber harvesting work for loggers;

24 C. Piecework pay rates and the impact of those rates on
25 loggers' safety and incomes; and

26 D. The impact of current forest practices and corporate
27 decisions on the stability of local, forest-dependent
28 communities; and

30 2. Gather information, identify problems and set goals by:

32 A. Identifying existing processes that can assist in the
33 attainment of those goals;

36 B. Identifying barriers to attainment of those goals,
37 including existing policy or legislation; and

38 C. Recommending modification of existing processes or
39 creation of new processes to overcome those barriers and
40 attain those goals.

42 The round table shall issue a report that assesses the
43 problems set out in subsection 1 and makes recommendations for
44 policy changes. The changes may include research, education,
45 demonstration projects, outreach, tax policy or regulation. The
46 round table shall hold public meetings on its findings before
47 submitting its report to the Legislature; and be it further
48

2 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the round table may
request staffing assistance from the Executive Director of the
Legislative Council; and be it further

4
6 **Sec. 6. Compensation. Resolved:** That members are entitled to
compensation for transportation costs and other compensation if
their participation would entail economic hardship; and be it
8 further

10 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the round table shall submit
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
12 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters
14 in the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later
than January 1, 2002.

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SUMMARY

20 This resolve establishes the Maine Forest Policy Round Table
Study Commission to address and study key forestry issues,
22 including economic and labor issues, and to make recommendations
for changes in the State's forestry policy.