

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1677, L.D. 2343, "An Act to Make a One-time Energy Appropriation to Support Shortfalls in the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program"

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the substitute title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Further amend the bill by striking out everything 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, a comprehensive study of Maine's low-income heating assistance program is needed to assess the effectiveness and the needs of clients of that program and since this information would be most useful in preparation for winter; 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. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established; and be it further

SENATE AMENDMENT

R. & S.

2           **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists  
of 16 members as follows:

4           1. The Executive Director of the Maine State Housing  
6 Authority or the director's designee;

8           2. The Public Advocate;

10          3. The following members appointed by the President of the  
Senate:

12           A. Two members of the Senate. When making the  
14 appointments, the President of the Senate shall give  
16 preference to members from the Joint Standing Committee on  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs and to members from the  
Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy;

18           B. One member from a community action program agency that  
20 delivers the federal Low-income Home Energy Assistance  
Program;

22           C. One member from a business that provides energy  
24 maintenance services;

26           D. One member from a regulated utility providing energy for  
home heating;

28           E. One member from an organization of oil dealers;

30           F. One member from a regulated local distribution natural  
32 gas utility providing natural gas for home heating; and

34           G. One member from an institute of higher education with  
expertise in home construction or energy conservation in  
36 residential structures; and

38          4. The following members appointed by the Speaker of the  
House:

40           A. Two members of the House of Representatives. When  
42 making the appointments, the Speaker of the House shall give  
44 preference to members from the Joint Standing Committee on  
Health and Human Services and to members from the Joint  
Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy;

46           B. One member representing a nonprofit agency that delivers  
48 the federal Weatherization Assistance for Low-income Persons  
Program;

50

# SENATE AMENDMENT

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- 2 C. One member from an organization of petroleum distributors;
- 4 D. One member with knowledge of residential building trades, including special knowledge of energy conservation features; and
- 6
- 8 E. One member from a statewide organization representing low-income people; and be it further
- 10

12 **Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The first named Senate member and the first named House member serve as cochairs of the task force. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their appointments. The cochairs shall convene the first meeting of the task force no later than 18 30 days after the appointment of all members is complete; and be it further

20 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall investigate the problems facing low-income households in the heating of their homes, including cost of heating, energy conservation, demand-side management and availability and reliability of federal programs of assistance in paying heating costs and reducing energy demand. In examining these issues, the task force shall examine the operation and effectiveness of existing programs to assist low-income households, the coordination of resources to maximize the effects of available resources, the need for state programs to supplement federal programs or to enable existing programs to serve a greater portion of those eligible and techniques to utilize resources in new ways or new combinations that have the potential for easing the burden of heating costs or enhancing the efficient use of energy for low-income households. The task force shall examine the effects of interruptable natural gas services on the supply and price of home heating oil. The task force shall examine programs and techniques that are employed in other states or countries, solicit suggestions from groups and individuals with expertise in energy management and energy pricing and make recommendations for consideration by the 120th Legislature; and be it further

44 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the task force shall request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative Council; and be it further

48 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That those members of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement of necessary expenses for

# SENATE AMENDMENT

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2 their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other  
members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by  
4 their employers or other entities whom they represent are  
entitled to receive reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred  
6 for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

8 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit a  
report with an accompanying bill for the First Regular Session of  
the 120th Legislature by November 1, 2000. If the task force  
10 requires an extension of time to make its report, it may apply to  
the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it  
12 further

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

18 **2000-01**

20 **LEGISLATURE**

22 **Task Force to Reduce the**  
**Burden of Home Heating Costs**  
24 **on Low-income Households**

26	Personal Services	\$880
	All Other	1,300

28 Provides funds for the per diem and expenses  
30 of legislative members of the Task Force to  
Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on  
32 Low-income Households and to print the  
required report.

34 **LEGISLATURE**

36	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,180</b>
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38 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.' '

42 **FISCAL NOTE**

44 This amendment reduces the General Fund cost of the resolve  
by \$3,540 in fiscal year 2000-01.

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2 As amended, this resolve includes a General Fund  
3 appropriation of \$2,180 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the  
4 Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members  
5 of the Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on  
6 Low-income Households and to print the required report.

8 The additional costs associated with the payment of expenses  
9 to members of the task force not otherwise compensated by their  
10 employers can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing  
11 budgeted resources.

14 **SUMMARY**

16 This amendment strikes the resolve. The amendment clarifies  
17 the appointment of members to the Task Force to Reduce the Burden  
18 of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households.

20  
22 SPONSORED BY: *Michael H. Michaud*  
23 (Senator MICHAUD) *JMB*  
24 COUNTY: Penobscot

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