

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households'

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 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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. of S.

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

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

2. The Public Advocate;

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

A. One member of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs;

B. One member of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, representing the majority party;

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

D. One member from a business that provides energy maintenance services;

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

F. One member from an organization of oil dealers;

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

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

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

A. Two members of the House of Representatives, including one member of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and one member of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, one member representing the majority party and one member representing the minority party;

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

2 C. One member from an organization of petroleum  
distributors;

4 D. One member with knowledge of residential building  
6 trades, with special knowledge about energy conservation  
features; and

8 E. One member from a statewide organization representing  
10 low-income people; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be  
12 made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
14 resolve. The first named House member and the first named Senate  
16 member serve as cochaIRS of the task force. The appointing  
18 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  
30 days after the appointment of all members is complete; and be  
it further

20 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall  
22 investigate the problems facing low-income households in the  
24 heating of their homes, including cost of heating, energy  
conservation, demand-side management and availability and  
26 reliability of federal programs of assistance in paying heating  
costs and reducing energy demand. In examining these issues, the  
28 task force shall examine the operation and effectiveness of  
existing programs to assist low-income households, the  
30 coordination of resources to maximize the effects of available  
resources, the need for state programs to supplement federal  
32 programs or to enable existing programs to serve a greater  
portion of those eligible and techniques to utilize resources in  
34 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  
36 the effects of interruptable natural gas services on the supply  
and price of home heating oil. The task force shall examine  
38 programs and techniques that are employed in other states or  
countries, solicit suggestions from groups and individuals with  
40 expertise in energy management and energy pricing and make  
42 recommendations for consideration by the 120th Legislature; and  
be it further

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

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

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

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

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

2000-01

**LEGISLATURE**

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

Personal Services	\$1,320
All Other	4,400

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

**LEGISLATURE  
TOTAL**

            
\$5,720

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

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

2000-01

**APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

