

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R.S.

L.D. 2461

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DATE: 4/10/2000

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

SENATE AMENDMENT "C" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1755, L.D. 2461, "Resolve, to Create a Commission to Study and Establish Moral Policies on Investments and Purchasing by the State"

Amend the amendment by striking out the substitute title and replacing it with the following:

'Resolve, to Create a Commission to Study and Establish Moral Policies Regarding Foreign Investments and Foreign Purchasing by the State'

Further amend the amendment by inserting after the first indented paragraph and new title the following:

'Further amend the resolve by inserting after the title the following:

'Preamble. Whereas, Maine is a state that upholds the dignity of every human being, promotes basic human rights and supports social and economic justice; and

Whereas, Maine is a state that believes employers should fairly compensate hard work, that the health and safety of working people should be protected and that all forms of unlawful discrimination and abuse should not be tolerated; and

Whereas, there are manufacturers in foreign countries that do not share Maine's support of human rights and justice and those manufacturers' employment practices are characterized by

SENATE AMENDMENT

2 poverty wages, forced overtime, child labor, unsafe and unhealthy
workplace conditions and often abusive working conditions; and

4 **Whereas,** established international standards for ethical
manufacturing are routinely violated; and

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8 **Whereas,** sweatshops have been and continue to be a direct
cause of job loss and depressed wages for citizens of Maine,
whose employers relocate for cheap labor or threaten plant
10 closings to force lower wages and contract concessions; and

12 **Whereas,** Maine can make a significant contribution to the
campaigns against sweatshop manufacturing by supporting the
14 enforcement of established ethical codes of corporate conduct; and

16 **Whereas,** there exists widespread popular support in Maine
for the principle that purchases and investments by the State
18 ought to be made under ethical conditions of production; now,
therefore, be it ' '

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22 Further amend the amendment by striking out all of the 7th
to 9th indented paragraphs after the title (page 2, lines 3 to 16
in amendment) and inserting in their place the following:

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26 'Further amend the resolve by striking out all of section 5
and inserting in its place the following:

28 **'Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
subject of economically and socially just policies for foreign
30 investment and foreign purchasing by the State. In examining the
issue of economically and socially just policies for foreign
32 investments and foreign purchasing, the commission shall evaluate
the policies of other states. In its report, the commission
34 shall propose standards concerning foreign companies that do
business with the State and foreign companies invested in by the
36 State. The commission shall consider such factors as child labor
and exploitation of workers under unhealthy conditions. The
38 commission shall make recommendations with regard to whether the
State should do business with and invest in foreign companies
40 that oppress or mistreat their workers. The commission shall
identify the possible positive and negative impact of proposed
42 policies on Maine workers, Maine small businesses and Maine
taxpayers; and be it further''

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46 **SUMMARY**

48 This amendment amends the title of the resolve and changes
the duties, as amended by Committee Amendment "A," of the
50 Commission to Study Economically and Socially Just Policies on

SENATE AMENDMENT "C" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1755,
L.D. 2461

2 Investments and Purchasing by the State by requiring the
3 commission to propose standards concerning foreign investments
4 and foreign purchasing by the State, considering such factors as
5 child labor and exploitation of workers under unhealthy
6 conditions, and to make recommendations as to whether the State
7 should do business with foreign businesses that oppress or
8 mistreat their workers. This amendment also removes the duty
9 that the commission consider such factors as exploitation of
10 workers and frequency of Occupational Safety and Health
Administration violations by Maine businesses.

12 This amendment also adds a preamble to the resolve.

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16 SPONSORED BY: Killey
(Senator KILKELLY)

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COUNTY: Lincoln

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