

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

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Legislative Document

No. 2461

H.P. 1755

House of Representatives, January 10, 2000

**Resolve, to Create a Commission to Study and Establish Moral Policies  
on Investments and Purchasing by the State.**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MATTHEWS of Winslow.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, BRYANT of Dixfield, DAVIS of Falmouth, KANE of Saco, RICHARD of Madison, RINES of Wiscasset, SAMSON of Jay, STANLEY of Medway.

2           **Sec. 1. Commission to Study and Establish Moral Policies on**  
3 **Investments and Purchasing by the State established. Resolved:** That  
4 the Commission to Study and Establish Moral Policies on  
5 Investments and Purchasing by the State, referred to in this  
6 resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

7           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission  
8 consists of 10 members as follows:

9           1. Two members from the Senate appointed by the President  
10 of the Senate;

11           2. Two members from the House of Representatives appointed  
12 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

13           3. Two members from groups involved in social investments  
14 or human rights issues, one appointed by the President and one  
15 appointed by the Speaker;

16           4. One representative of the Maine State Retirement System  
17 appointed by the Speaker;

18           5. One representative of the Department of Administrative  
19 and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Division of  
20 Purchases appointed by the Governor;

21           6. One member of the public appointed by the Governor; and

22           7. The Treasurer of State or the treasurer's designee; and  
23 be it further

24           **Sec. 3. Chair. Resolved:** That the commission shall select a  
25 chair from among its members at its first meeting; and be it  
26 further

27           **Sec. 4. Meetings. Resolved:** That the commission shall meet at  
28 least 6 times; and be it further

29           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the  
30 subject of and establish moral standards for investment and  
31 purchasing by the State. In examining the issue of a moral  
32 policy for investments and purchasing, the commission shall  
33 evaluate the policies in other states. In its report, the  
34 commission shall propose standards that require companies doing  
35 business with the State and companies invested in by the State to  
36 respect labor and environmental laws, provide health insurance  
37 and pension benefits, invest in their workers and pay their  
38 workers a wage that is sufficient to cover basic needs. The  
39 commission shall establish standards that prohibit the State from  
40 doing business with and investing in companies in other countries

2 that oppress or mistreat their workers. The commission shall  
3 consider factors for Maine businesses such as exploitation of  
4 workers, frequency of Occupational Safety and Health  
5 Administration violations and layoff of Maine employees solely  
6 for economic gain; and be it further

7 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the  
8 Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
9 shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and  
10 be it further

11 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the  
12 commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative  
13 per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,  
14 section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for  
15 their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Other  
16 members of the commission who are not otherwise compensated by  
17 their employers or other entities that they represent are  
18 entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred  
19 for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further  
20

21 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit  
22 its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,  
23 to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later  
24 than December 15, 2000. If the commission requires a limited  
25 extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the  
26 Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it  
27 further  
28

29 **Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved:** That the chair of the commission,  
30 with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the  
31 commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the  
32 commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the  
33 Legislative Council for approval. The commission may not incur  
34 expenses that would result in the commission exceeding its  
35 approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the Executive  
36 Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the  
37 commission chair and staff with a status report on the  
38 commission's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available  
39 funds.  
40

## 41 SUMMARY

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43 **44** This resolve creates a commission to study the establishment  
45 of moral investment policies and moral purchasing policies by the  
46 State. The commission shall consider such factors as  
47 exploitation of workers, frequency of Occupational Safety and  
48 Health Administration violations and layoff of Maine employees  
49 solely for economic gain. The commission shall establish  
50 standards for moral policies and present them to the Legislature.