

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. S.

L.D. 2535

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DATE: 3-23-00

(Filing No. H-932)

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1809, L.D. 2535, Bill, "An Act to Broaden Business Ownership in Maine"

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

'Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of the following 13 members, all of whom must have a knowledge of and experience with Maine business and labor issues and the structure of the Maine economy:

1. The Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine or the chief executive officer's designee;

2. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;

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3. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;

4. Five members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

A. Two Senators, not from the same political party;

B. One representative from a large business in Maine or a statewide organization representing businesses in Maine;

C. One representative from organized labor; and

D. One representative from a bank in Maine; and

5. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:

A. Two members of the House of Representatives, not from the same political party;

B. One representative from a community development organization;

C. One representative from a Maine economic policy organization; and

D. One representative from a small business in Maine or a statewide organization representing businesses in Maine; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments; chairs; meeting. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been made. The first named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first named House of Representatives member is the House chair. The first meeting must be called by the chairs no later than 14 days after all the appointments have been made; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall investigate the current patterns of in-state, out-of-state and international ownership of Maine businesses. In conducting its study, the commission shall specifically:

1. Review the characteristics of businesses owned by in-state, out-of-state and international concerns, including the number and quality of jobs provided and the annual sales figures;

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2 2. Study the impacts of changes of ownership on the state
and local economies and on civic and environmental accountability;

4 3. Analyze the patterns of small Maine-owned growth
6 companies and their need for large infusions of capital as they
grow, and assess how many of those companies are bought out and
whether they continue to operate in the State;

8 4. Examine options for broadening ownership through
10 employee, consumer and community forms of ownership in firms
operating in the State;

12 5. Study the feasibility of establishing an employee
14 ownership feasibility program and fund to provide grants to
employees of businesses in the State to be used for purposes of
16 analyzing the potential for employee ownership;

18 6. Make recommendations on the eligibility criteria for an
employee ownership feasibility program; and

20 7. Study and make recommendations for an education and
22 outreach program for Maine businesses on employee ownership
options; and be it further

24 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the State Planning
26 Office in the Executive Department shall provide necessary
staffing services to the commission; and be it further

28 **Sec. 6. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
30 commission who are Legislators are entitled to receive the
legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes,
32 Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and other
necessary expenses for attendance at meetings of the commission.
34 Public members not otherwise compensated by their employers or
other entities that they represent are entitled to receive
36 reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at
authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

38 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit a
40 final report along with any recommended legislation to the First
Regular Session of the 120th Legislature. The final report must
42 be submitted no later than November 15, 2000. If the commission
requires an extension of time to make its report, it may apply to
44 the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it
further

46 **Sec. 8. Commission budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the
48 commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall
administer the commission budget. Within 10 days after its first
50 meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and proposed

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budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not incur expenses that would result in the commission exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council or the executive director's designee shall provide the commission chairs and staff with a status report on the commission budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds; and be it further

Sec. 9. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

2000-01

LEGISLATURE

Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine

Personal Services	\$880
All Other	2,500

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and expenses of other eligible members of the Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine and to print the required report.

**LEGISLATURE
TOTAL**

\$3,380'

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

FISCAL NOTE

	1999-00	2000-01
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APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund	\$3,380
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This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of \$3,380 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and other eligible members of the

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2 Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine and to print the
required report.

4 The State Planning Office will incur some minor additional
6 costs to provide staffing assistance to the commission. These
costs can be absorbed within the office's existing budgeted
resources.

8
10 The Finance Authority of Maine, the Department of Labor and
the Department of Economic and Community Development will incur
12 some minor additional costs to participate as members of the
commission. These costs can be absorbed within the existing
14 budgeted resources of the respective agencies.'

16 **SUMMARY**

18 This amendment changes the bill to a resolve. It deletes
the establishment of an employee ownership feasibility fund and
20 deletes the establishment of an education and outreach program
for Maine businesses on employee ownership options. It adds to
22 the duties of the Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine
the duty to study the feasibility of an employee ownership
24 feasibility program and fund and the duty to make recommendations
for an education and outreach program for Maine businesses on
26 employee ownership options. The amendment also makes changes to
the membership of the commission and changes the due date of the
28 commission's final report to November 15, 2000. Finally, the
amendment adds a fiscal note.

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