

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1429

H.P. 1066

House of Representatives, March 5, 2001

Resolve, to Assess the Consequences of Climate Change in the State.

Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator SAWYER of Penobscot and
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, COWGER of Hallowell, DAIGLE of Arundel,
DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, HALL of Bristol, SIMPSON of Auburn, TWOMEY of
Biddeford, Senator: MARTIN of Aroostook.

Sec. 1. Creation of Maine State Climatologist position. Resolved:

2 That the Commissioner of Environmental Protection in consultation
4 with the Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies at the
6 University of Maine shall develop for submission to the Second
8 Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later than January 1,
10 2002 a plan for establishing the position of Maine State
12 Climatologist within the institute to be funded through
legislative appropriation and whose activities must be
coordinated with and supported by the Department of Environmental
Protection. The responsibilities of the Maine State
Climatologist, with the assistance of and in consultation with
the Department of Environmental Protection, must include:

14 1. The design and development of a statewide environmental
16 monitoring network to detect changes in key environmental
18 conditions related to climate. The program must be designed to
20 increase public awareness of climate-related phenomena and to
22 identify actions that may be taken to lower risks of climate
24 change and its effects on public health and welfare. When
practical the program must involve schools in collecting data.
The information developed by the program must be available to the
public and organized in a manner to help businesses, natural
resource managers, farmers and governmental agencies plan for
future effects of climate change; and

26 2. Evaluating for this State the following:

28 A. Past climate patterns and trends both historical and
30 prehistorical, including geological evidence and sea-level
and coastal environmental changes;

32 B. Biotic responses to climate change; and

34 C. Variability in physical conditions, including, but not
36 limited to, frequency and severity of storms, levels of
38 precipitation and seasonal temperature fluctuations,
attributable to climate change.

40 As part of the plan submitted pursuant to this section, the
42 Department of Environmental Protection shall identify a process
44 for collecting and reporting statewide emissions of greenhouse
46 gases on a regular basis. The department shall also develop and
maintain a voluntary registry of actions taken subsequent to 1989
by persons or corporations to control emissions of greenhouse
gases, including the sequestration of carbon that otherwise might
have been released as carbon dioxide.

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SUMMARY

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4 This resolve requires the Department of Environmental
6 Protection, in consultation with the Institute for Quaternary and
8 Climate Studies at the University of Maine, to develop for
10 submission to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature
 no later than January 1, 2002 a plan for establishing the
 position of Maine State Climatologist within the institute to be
 funded through legislative appropriation and whose activities
 must be coordinated with and supported by the department.