## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied (searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



## 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1619

H.P. 1197

House of Representatives, March 13, 2001

Millient M. Mac Failand

Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study Maine's Election Procedures and Voting Laws.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative SHIELDS of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator TURNER of Cumberland and
Representatives: DUNCAN of Presque Isle, HEIDRICH of Oxford, LABRECQUE of
Gorham, O'BRIEN of Augusta, Senator: DAVIS of Piscataquis.

- Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study Maine's Election Procedures and Voting Laws, 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 members:
- 1. The members of the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs;

8

22

24

26

28

30

32

34

36

38

- 12 2. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee; and
- 3. Two members appointed by a statewide association of municipal clerks, one who represents large communities and one who represents small communities; and be it further
- Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs are the chairs of the commission; and be it further
  - Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by the appointing authority once the selections have been made. When the appointment of all members has been completed, the chairs of the commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission no later than 15 days after the appointment of members; and be it further
    - Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall review the laws governing election procedures and voting in this State and develop recommendations to improve those laws; and be it further
  - Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That, upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further
- Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved: That the members of the commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Other members of the commission who are not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That the commission shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later than January 5, 2002. If the commission requires a limited extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

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

## **SUMMARY**

This resolve establishes the Commission to Study Maine's Election Procedures and Voting Laws. The commission is charged with reviewing the laws governing election procedures and voting in this State, developing recommendations to improve those laws and reporting to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.