

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 909

S.P. 305

In Senate, February 20, 2003

**Resolve, To Establish the Committee To Investigate the Feasibility  
of and Need for Regulation of Spoken Language Interpreters**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator EDMONDS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford and  
Senators: PENDLETON of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representative:  
PARADIS of Frenchville.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the  
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after  
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

4           **Whereas,** this resolve establishes the Committee to  
6 Investigate the Feasibility of and Need for Regulation of Spoken  
Language Interpreters; and

8           **Whereas,** this resolve is necessary as an emergency measure  
10 to afford adequate time for the issues to be appropriately  
addressed by the committee; and

12           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
14 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
16 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore, be it

18           **Sec. 1. Committee established. Resolved:** That the Committee to  
20 Investigate the Feasibility of and Need for Regulation of Spoken  
Language Interpreters, referred to in this resolve as "the  
22 committee," is established; and be it further

24           **Sec. 2. Committee membership. Resolved:** That the committee  
consists of 11 members appointed as follows:

26           1. One member of the Senate appointed by the President of  
28 the Senate;

30           2. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
the Speaker of the House;

32           3. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate  
34 as follows:

36           A. One member representing the Portland schools  
multilingual program;

38           B. One member representing medical service providers; and

40           C. One member representing the Catholic Charities of Maine  
42 Refugee and Immigration Services;

44           4. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House as  
follows:

46           A. One member of Maine SAFE representing forestry workers  
48 in northern Maine;

50           B. One member who is a practicing interpreter; and

2 C. One member representing an interpreter referral agency;

4 5. Two members appointed by the Governor who are consumers  
of spoken language interpreting services; and

6  
8 6. The Commissioner of Professional and Financial  
Regulation, or a designee; and be it further

10 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the Senate member is the  
Senate chair of the committee and the House of Representatives  
12 member is the House chair of the committee; and be it further

14 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of committee. Resolved:** That  
all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the  
16 effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall  
notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all  
18 appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after  
appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the  
20 first meeting of the committee; and be it further

22 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the committee shall examine the  
following issues concerning spoken language interpreting:

24 1. The current state of spoken language interpreting  
26 throughout the State;

28 2. The need for spoken language interpreting in the State;

30 3. The potential harm to public safety if this profession  
is not regulated; and

32 4. The costs involved in regulating the profession; and be  
34 it further

36 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the  
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
38 shall provide necessary staffing services to the committee; and  
be it further

40  
42 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members  
of the committee are entitled to the legislative per diem, as  
defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and  
44 reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to  
their attendance at authorized meetings of the committee. Public

2 members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other  
3 entities that they represent are entitled to receive  
4 reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at  
5 authorized meetings of the committee; and be it further

6 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the committee shall submit a  
7 report that includes its findings and recommendations, including  
8 suggested legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 121st  
9 Legislature no later than December 10, 2003. The committee is  
10 not authorized to introduce legislation; and be it further

12 **Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved:** That, if the committee requires a  
13 limited extension of time to complete its study and make its  
14 report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant  
15 an extension; and be it further

16 **Sec. 10. Committee budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the  
17 committee, with assistance from the committee staff, shall  
18 administer the committee's budget. Within 10 days after its  
19 first meeting, the committee shall present a work plan and  
20 proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The  
21 committee may not incur expenses that would result in the  
22 committee's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the  
23 committee, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council or  
24 the executive director's designee shall promptly provide the  
25 committee chairs and staff with a status report on the committee  
26 budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

28 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
29 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

32

### SUMMARY

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36 This resolve establishes the Committee to Investigate the  
Feasibility of and Need for Regulation of Spoken Language  
Interpreters.