

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1327

S.P. 429

In Senate, March 11, 2003

**Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Determine Why Young  
People Are Leaving Maine**

(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 STRIMLING of Cumberland.

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  
6           **Whereas,** the commission established in this resolve must  
initiate its study before the 90-day period expires in order that  
the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for  
8 submission to the next legislative session; and

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

16           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission  
to Determine Why Young People Are Leaving Maine, referred to in  
18 this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it  
further

20           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission  
22 consists of 9 members appointed as follows:

24           1. The youngest female member of the House of  
Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

26  
28           2. A male member of the House of Representatives, appointed  
by the Speaker of the House, who is of a different party from the  
other legislative member of the House of Representatives and is  
30 from a different geographic region from the other legislative  
members;

32           3. The youngest member of the Senate, appointed by the  
34 President of the Senate;

36           4. A member of the Senate, appointed by the President of  
the Senate, who is of a different gender and different party from  
38 the other legislative member of the Senate and is from a  
different geographic region from the other legislative members;

40           5. Three members of the public who are under 21 years of  
42 age, one appointed by the President of the Senate and 2 appointed  
by the Speaker of the House;

44           6. One expert in the field of migration, appointed by the  
46 President of the Senate; and

48           7. One expert on Maine, appointed by the Speaker of the  
House; and be it further

50

2           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member  
is the Senate chair of the commission and the first-named House  
4 of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission;  
and be it further

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

14           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine  
the following issues to determine why young people are leaving  
16 the State and why more young people are not moving to the State:  
employment opportunities, nightlife, educational opportunities,  
18 immigration policies, culture and the history of the State. In  
conducting the study, the commission shall hold 12 informational  
20 sessions in different locations throughout the State for  
discussions with knowledgeable persons. The commission may also:

22           1. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a  
24 literature search;

26           2. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of  
the public or affected persons and groups;

28           3. Procure and analyze other data;

30           4. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal  
32 questions within the scope of the study; and

34           5. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or  
governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions related  
36 to issues within the scope of the study; and be it further

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

42           **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members  
44 of the commission are entitled to the legislative per diem, as  
defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and  
46 reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to  
their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission.  
48 Public members not otherwise compensated by their

2 employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to  
3 receive reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance  
4 at authorized meetings of the commission and, upon a  
5 demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the  
6 legislative per diem for their attendance at authorized meetings  
7 of the commission; and be it further

8 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That no later than December 1,  
9 2003, the commission shall submit a report that includes its  
10 findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation,  
11 for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 121st  
12 Legislature. The commission is authorized to submit legislation  
13 related to its report for introduction to the Second Regular  
14 Session of the 121st Legislature at the time of submission of its  
15 report; and be it further

16 **Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved:** That, if the commission requires  
17 a limited extension of time to complete its study and make its  
18 report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant  
19 an extension; and be it further

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

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

38 **SUMMARY**

40 This resolve establishes the Commission to Determine Why  
42 Young People Are Leaving Maine.