

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1343

H.P. 989

House of Representatives, March 12, 2003

**Resolve, To Create the Task Force To Study Parity and Portability  
of Retirement Benefits for State Law Enforcement Officers,  
Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Brunswick.  
Cosponsored by Senator EDMONDS of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, LESSARD of  
Topsham, SMITH of Van Buren, Senator: SHOREY of Washington.

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,** this resolve establishes the Task Force to Study  
Parity and Portability of Retirement Benefits for State Law  
Enforcement Officers, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and  
8 Firefighters; and

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

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

20           **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to  
Study Parity and Portability of Retirement Benefits for State Law  
22 Enforcement Officers, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and  
Firefighters, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is  
24 established; and be it further

26           **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force  
consists of 11 members appointed as follows:

28           1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the  
30 Senate. When making the appointments, the President of the  
Senate shall give preference to members who serve on the Joint  
32 Standing Committee on State and Local Government, the Joint  
Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety or the  
34 Joint Standing Committee on Labor;

36           2. Five members of the House of Representatives, appointed  
by the Speaker of the House. When making the appointments, the  
38 Speaker of the House shall give preference to members who serve  
on the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,  
40 the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice or the Joint  
Standing Committee on Labor; and

42           3. Four members appointed by the Governor as follows:

44           A. One member representing municipal law enforcement  
46 officers;

48           B. One member representing municipal firefighters;

2 C. One member representing state law enforcement officers  
including employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal  
4 who have law enforcement powers; and

6 D. One member representing the Maine Municipal Association;  
and be it further

8 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member  
is the Senate chair of the task force and the first-named House  
10 of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force;  
and be it further

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

20 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall examine  
22 the following issues concerning retirement and health insurance  
benefits for state and municipal law enforcement officers and  
24 firefighters:

26 1. Review the differences in retirement benefits provided  
to state law enforcement officers and municipal law enforcement  
28 officers;

30 2. Develop options for providing parity in benefits and for  
increasing portability of benefits for law enforcement officers  
32 who move between state and municipal employment, including  
employment in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, or those who  
34 change municipal employers;

36 3. Review the differences among retirement and health  
insurance benefits provided to municipal law enforcement officers  
38 and firefighters in various municipalities and consider the  
advantages and disadvantages of creating a uniform retirement and  
40 health insurance benefit plan for municipal law enforcement  
officers and firefighters.

42 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the  
44 Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force. The  
46 Maine State Retirement System shall provide technical assistance  
as requested by the task force; and be it further

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