

# 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)



# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

---

Legislative Document

No. 1236

H.P. 854

House of Representatives, March 10, 2005

**Resolve, To Establish the Study Commission Regarding Liveable  
Wages**

(EMERGENCY)

---

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative LERMAN of Augusta.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: GERZOFSKY of Brunswick, HUTTON of Bowdoinham,  
JACKSON of Fort Kent, PATRICK of Rumford, SMITH of Van Buren, Senators:  
BARTLETT of Cumberland, 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,** this resolve establishes the Study Commission  
Regarding Liveable Wages to define a liveable wage and study the  
issues confronting citizens of this State who earn less than a  
8 liveable wage; and

10           **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day  
period expires in order that the study may be completed and a  
12 report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative  
session; and

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

20  
22           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Study  
Commission Regarding Liveable Wages, referred to in this resolve  
as "the commission," is established; and be it further

24  
26           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission  
consists of the following members appointed as follows:

- 28           1. Two Senators appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 30           2. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by  
the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 32           3. A member of the religious community, appointed by the  
34 President of the Senate;
- 36           4. A representative of organized labor, appointed by the  
President of the Senate;
- 38           5. A representative from a community agency providing  
40 education or training services to low-income people, appointed by  
the President of the Senate;
- 42           6. A representative of an organization representing those  
44 who provide personal assistance services, appointed by the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 46           7. A working single parent who has minor children and earns  
48 less than 150% of the federal poverty level, appointed by the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 50

2 8. A representative of the Maine Development Foundation,  
appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

4 9. The following 3 representatives, appointed by the  
Governor:

6 A. A representative from an organization whose purpose it  
8 is to advance the position of women;

10 B. A representative from an organization that advocates for  
12 low-income people; and

14 C. A representative from an agency providing community  
economic development services;

16 10. The Director of the State Planning Office;

18 11. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the  
commissioner's designee; and

20 12. The Commissioner of Labor, or the commissioner's  
22 designee; and be it further

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

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

36 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the  
38 issues surrounding liveable wages. In conducting its review, the  
commission shall undertake to:

40 1. Define what level of compensation constitutes a liveable  
42 wage;

44 2. Identify ways to ensure that all Maine adults earn a  
liveable wage;

46 3. Examine the efficacy of a state earned income tax credit  
48 that would enable working families to meet their basic needs;

2           4. Examine how increased access to education and training  
4 and access to child care increases the likelihood of earning a  
liveable wage and identify means of increasing such access;

6           5. Identify the number of people in Maine who earn less  
8 than a liveable wage; and

10           6. Examine how state policies and payments, including  
12 MaineCare and other state health care related payments,  
contribute to the number of Mainers who earn less than a liveable  
wage; and be it further

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

18           **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members  
20 of the commission are entitled to receive the legislative per  
diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section  
22 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses  
related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the  
24 commission. Public members not otherwise compensated by their  
employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to  
26 receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a  
demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the  
28 legislative per diem for their attendance at authorized meetings  
of the commission; and be it further

30           **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 2,  
32 2005, the commission shall submit a report that includes its  
findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation,  
34 for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd  
Legislature. The commission is authorized to introduce  
36 legislation related to its report to the Second Regular Session  
of the 122nd Legislature at the time of submission of its report;  
38 and be it further

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

44           **Sec. 10. Commission budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the  
46 commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall  
administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after its  
48 first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and  
proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The  
50 commission may not incur expenses that would result in the

2 commission's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from  
3 the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
4 shall promptly provide the commission chairs and staff with a  
5 status report on the commission budget, expenditures incurred and  
6 paid and available funds.

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

10

### 11 SUMMARY

12

13 This resolve establishes the Study Commission Regarding  
14 Liveable Wages.