



## **123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1247

S.P. 433

March 8, 2007

Resolve, To Establish a Study Commission To Explore the Creation of a Department of Peace

(EMERGENCY)

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SULLIVAN of York. (BY REQUEST) Cosponsored by Representative ADAMS of Portland and Senator: BOWMAN of York, Representative: PERCY of Phippsburg. 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this resolve establishes the Commission to Explore the Creation of a
Department of Peace; and

5 Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that 6 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next 7 legislative session; and

8 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within 9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 11 therefore, be it

12 Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Explore 13 the Creation of a Department of Peace, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is 14 established; and be it further

15 Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 16 6 members appointed as follows:

- 17 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 18 2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of theHouse; and
- 20 3. Two members of the public, appointed by the Governor; and be it further

21 Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate 22 chair of the commission and the first-named House of Representatives member is the 23 House chair of the commission; and be it further

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission, which must be no later than 60 days following the effective date of this resolve; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall explore the creation of a Department of Peace, which will be concerned with global peace, security and justice in order to improve the political climate locally and eventually at the national level by establishing a federal Department of Peace; and be it further

35 Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide 36 necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further 1 Compensation. **Resolved:** That the legislative members of the Sec. 7. 2 commission are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine 3 Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Public 4 members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they 5 represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a 6 demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their 7 8 attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

9 Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2008, the commission 10 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested 11 legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature. The 12 commission is authorized to introduce legislation related to its report to the Second 13 Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature at the time of submission of its report; and be it 14 further

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

18 Sec. 10. Commission budget. Resolved: That the chairs of the commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the commission's budget. 19 20 Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and 21 proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not 22 incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding its approved budget. 23 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 24 25 commission budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

26 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this 27 legislation takes effect when approved.

28

**SUMMARY** 

This resolve establishes the Commission to Explore the Creation of a Department of Peace.