

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1371

H.P. 963

House of Representatives, March 13, 2007

**Resolve, To Provide Adequate Funding for Emergency Homeless
Shelters**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNN of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator PERRY of Penobscot and
Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, FISHER of Brewer, Senator: BRANNIGAN of
Cumberland.

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

3 **Whereas,** this resolve creates the Commission To Study the Funding Issues
4 Regarding Emergency Homeless Shelters; 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 consideration during to the
7 next 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 Study
13 the Funding Issues Regarding Emergency Homeless Shelters, referred to in this resolve as
14 "the commission," is established; and be it further

15 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
16 13 members appointed as follows:

17 1. Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

18 2. One member who represents the Governor's office, appointed by the President of
19 the Senate;

20 3. One member from the Department of Health and Human Services, appointed by
21 the President of the Senate;

22 4. One member from the Maine State Housing Authority, appointed by the President
23 of the Senate;

24 5. Four members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
25 House; and

26 6. Three members from the Statewide Homeless Council, one from each of 3
27 regional homeless councils, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and be it further

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

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

1 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine the following
2 issues concerning homeless shelters:

- 3 1. Affordable housing for the homeless;
- 4 2. Causes of homelessness;
- 5 3. How the money designated for homeless shelters is used and whether the formula
6 for distributing funds to homeless shelters should be amended; and
- 7 4. Solutions to homelessness; and be it further

8 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
9 necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

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

18 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That no later than December 1, 2007 the commission
19 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
20 legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
21 Services and the Legislative Council. The commission is not authorized to introduce
22 legislation. Following receipt and review of the report, the Joint Standing Committee on
23 Health and Human Services may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd
24 Legislature; and be it further

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

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

36 **Sec. 11. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
37 appropriations and allocations are made.

38 **MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

1 **Shelter Operating Subsidy**

2 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for emergency homeless shelters.

3

4 GENERAL FUND	2007-08	2008-09
5 All Other	\$1,000,000	\$0
6		
7 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$0

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

10

SUMMARY

11 This resolve provides funding for emergency homeless shelters. The resolve
12 establishes the Commission To Study the Funding Issues Regarding Emergency
13 Homeless Shelters. The commission shall submit a report to the Joint Standing
14 Committee on Health and Human Services and to the Legislative Council by December 1,
15 2007. The commission shall examine the issues concerning affordable housing for the
16 homeless, the causes of and solutions for homelessness, how the money designated for
17 homeless shelters is used and whether the funding formula for distributing funds to the
18 homeless shelters should be amended.