

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 460

S.P. 163

In Senate, February 10, 2009

Resolve, To Evaluate Climate Change Adaptation Options for the State

Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Joy J. O'Brien in cursive.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SIMPSON of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative EBERLE of South Portland and
Senator: RECTOR of Knox, Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, FITTS of Pittsfield,
FLETCHER of Winslow, HINCK of Portland, PERCY of Phippsburg, PIEH of Bremen,
SMITH of Monmouth.

1 **Sec. 1. Creation of stakeholder group; membership. Resolved:** That the
2 Department of Environmental Protection, referred to in this resolve as "the department,"
3 shall establish and convene a stakeholder group to evaluate the options and actions
4 available to Maine people and businesses to prepare for and adapt to the most likely
5 impacts of climate change. Convening this group to respond to climate change must not
6 reduce continued strong state efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The
7 department shall include in its stakeholder group and the evaluation process performed
8 under section 2:

- 9 1. Representatives of business, industry and trade associations;
10 2. Representatives of nongovernmental organizations; and
11 3. State agencies with a current interest in these concerns and likely involvement in
12 the implementation of recommendations.

13 The department must ensure that a balance of interests is represented in decision
14 making. The department may ask the University of Maine and other higher education
15 institutions to provide scientific and technical expertise to the stakeholder group; and be it
16 further

17 **Sec. 2. Evaluation. Resolved:** That the department shall build upon the 2009
18 climate impact assessment by the University of Maine in evaluating the options available
19 to Maine people and businesses for adapting to the likely environmental effects of climate
20 change. That assessment concluded that climate change is already occurring in this State
21 as a result of increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and that, even with
22 the greenhouse gas reduction goals set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38,
23 section 576, more thorough planning is necessary to identify and implement the State's
24 responses to climate change in the areas of:

- 25 1. Ensuring sustainable opportunities for the development of greenhouse gas offset
26 projects and low-greenhouse gas emission technologies and processes in the various
27 sectors of Maine's economy;
28 2. Built infrastructure, including coastal and inland flooding effects on roads and
29 facilities, heat effects in urban centers and beach scouring;
30 3. Habitat and fish and wildlife species, including the effects of invasive species, a
31 lack of adequate conservation areas, a lack of connectivity between habitat and wildlife
32 and inadequate wetlands protection;
33 4. Marine ecosystems;
34 5. Forests and forest management practices, including a higher incidence of pests and
35 fires and a lack of biomass availability;
36 6. Agricultural and farming practices;
37 7. Human health, including increases in heat-related and vector-borne diseases;

