

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)



THE LAW LIBRARY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 522

H.P. 367

House of Representatives, February 12, 2009

**Resolve, To Establish the Study Commission Regarding Teachers'
Salaries**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative SUTHERLAND of Chapman.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CAIN of Orono, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, SCHATZ of Blue Hill, WAGNER of Lewiston.

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 establishes the Study Commission Regarding Teachers'
4 Salaries to study the issues confronting citizens of this State who depend on the retention
5 of a stable, experienced corps of professional teachers in this State's public schools to
6 ensure that the State's public school students will acquire the knowledge and skills
7 essential for college, career and citizenship in the 21st century; and

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

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

15 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Study Commission
16 Regarding Teachers' Salaries, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is
17 established; and be it further

18 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
19 13 members appointed as follows:

- 20 1. Two Senators, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 21 2. Five members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House;
- 23 3. Three teachers recommended by the President of the Maine Education Association
24 and appointed by the Governor;
- 25 4. One superintendent of a regional school unit, recommended by the President of
26 Maine School Superintendents Association and appointed by the Governor;
- 27 5. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, as an ex officio
28 nonvoting member; and
- 29 6. The Commissioner of Labor, or the commissioner's designee, as an ex officio
30 nonvoting member; and be it further

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

34 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
35 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
36 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative

1 Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment
2 of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission,
3 which must be no later than July 1, 2009; and be it further

4 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study all issues
5 surrounding teachers' salaries. In conducting its review, the commission shall undertake
6 to examine:

7 1. The effects on teachers' salaries of the essential programs and services funding
8 system for public education, including the elements of labor market adjustments, student-
9 teacher ratios and a teachers' salary matrix;

10 2. The effects on teachers' salaries of the minimum teachers' salary law and the
11 existing system of state subsidies for substandard salaries;

12 3. The relationship between and among teachers' salaries in school administrative
13 units, the amount and distribution of general purpose aid for local schools and amounts
14 raised locally for the support of public schools;

15 4. The relationship between teachers' salaries in this State and in other states;

16 5. The relationship between teachers' salaries and salaries paid to practitioners in
17 other comparable professions;

18 6. The effects of inflation on the real value of teachers' salaries and the minimum
19 salary amount required by law;

20 7. Practices in other states that mandate payment of minimum salaries based on
21 experience and education to all teachers and their costs and consequences; and

22 8. Factors relating to the age, experience, recruitment, retention and mobility of the
23 State's corps of professional teachers; and be it further

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

26 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 1, 2009, the commission
27 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
28 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The Joint
29 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs is authorized to introduce a bill
30 related to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 124th
31 Legislature upon receipt of the report.

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

SUMMARY

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

This resolve establishes the Study Commission Regarding Teachers' Salaries to investigate conditions affecting teachers' salaries in this State, which despite the enactment of a minimum teachers' salary law and substantial increases in general purpose aid for local schools in recent years have not kept pace with inflation and have declined in rank relative to other states in the nation. The resolve authorizes the commission to make findings and recommendations and to submit suggested legislation to ensure that all teachers are paid at rates that are commensurate with their experience, education, professional responsibilities and essential role in the development of the State's economy and human capital.