

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1110

H.P. 765

House of Representatives, March 20, 2009

**Resolve, Creating a Commission To Study the Issue of Homeless
Veterans in the State**

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CORNELL du HOUX of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator SULLIVAN of York and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, AYOTTE of Caswell, BEAULIEU of Auburn, BECK
of Waterville, BERRY of Bowdoinham, CAIN of Orono, CLEARY of Houlton, COTTA of
China, CRAFTS of Lisbon, CROCKETT of Bethel, EATON of Sullivan, FLEMINGS of Bar
Harbor, GIFFORD of Lincoln, HARVELL of Farmington, WALSH INNES of Yarmouth,
JOHNSON of Greenville, KAENRATH of South Portland, KENT of Woolwich, McKANE of
Newcastle, NASS of Acton, Speaker PINGREE of North Haven, PINKHAM of Lexington
Township, PRIEST of Brunswick, ROBINSON of Raymond, RUSSELL of Portland, SARTY
of Denmark, SMITH of Monmouth, STEVENS of Bangor, STUCKEY of Portland,
TRINWARD of Waterville, WATSON of Bath, WEAVER of York, WHEELER of Kittery,
Senators: ALFOND of Cumberland, BARTLETT of Cumberland, BOWMAN of York,
BRANNIGAN of Cumberland, GOODALL of Sagadahoc, JACKSON of Aroostook,
NUTTING of Androscoggin.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the
2 Issue of Homeless Veterans, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is
3 established; and be it further

4 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
5 13 members appointed as follows:

6 1. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

7 A. Two Senators who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces;

8 B. One member who represents a veterans service organization in the State; and

9 C. One member who represents a homeless services organization in the State;

10 2. Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

11 A. Five Representatives who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces;

12 B. One member who represents a veterans service organization in the State; and

13 C. One member who represents a homeless services organization in the State;

14 3. The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of
15 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management or the director's designee; and

16 4. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's
17 designee; and be it further

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

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

27 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall, in consultation with a
28 representative of the Veterans Administration, examine the issue of homeless veterans,
29 who are reported to constitute at least 1/3 of the nation's homeless population, and to
30 examine causes, possible solutions and what further assistance can be given to homeless
31 veterans in the State; and be it further

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

34 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 1, 2009, the
35 commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations,
36 including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the

1 124th Legislature. The Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs is
2 authorized to introduce a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the Second
3 Regular Session of the 124th Legislature upon receipt of the report.

4 **SUMMARY**

5 This resolve establishes a study commission to review and examine, in consultation
6 with a representative of the Veterans Administration, the issue of homeless veterans, who
7 are reported to constitute at least 1/3 of the nation's homeless population, and to examine
8 causes, possible solutions and what further assistance can be given to homeless veterans
9 in the State.