

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 109

H.P. 91

House of Representatives, January 20, 2011

**Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study the Promotion and
Expansion of the Maine Maple Sugar Industry**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative PETERSON of Rumford.
Cosponsored by Senator RECTOR of Knox and
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, HERBIG of Belfast, HUNT of Buxton, MARTIN of
Eagle Lake, PRESCOTT of Topsham, Senator: JACKSON of Aroostook.

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 Commission To Study the Promotion and
4 Expansion of the Maine Maple Sugar Industry to develop recommendations for
5 strengthening the branding of Maine maple sugar products, creating value-added jobs in
6 the natural resources sector and expanding export markets for Maine maple sugar
7 products; and

8 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
9 the initial phase of the study may be completed and an interim report submitted in time
10 for submission to the next 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 Commission To Study
16 the Promotion and Expansion of the Maine Maple Sugar Industry, referred to in this
17 resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it further

18 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
19 11 members appointed as follows:

20 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a
21 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

22 2. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
23 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
24 in the Legislature; and

25 3. Five members appointed by the Governor with at least one member representing
26 each of the following:

27 A. Maine producers of maple sugar products;

28 B. Large landowners; and

29 C. Small woodlot owners; and be it further

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

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

1 section 7. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not
2 all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative
3 Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business; and be
4 it further

5 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine with reference to
6 the Maine maple sugar industry:

7 1. The potential for expanding both the harvesting and processing of maple sap for
8 sugar;

9 2. Obstacles to expanded production;

10 3. Opportunities for enhancing a Maine maple brand;

11 4. The potential for expanding value-added processing and the economic impact of
12 expansion;

13 5. The potential for expanding export marketing and the economic impact of
14 expansion;

15 6. Structures or network associations that could increase sustainable production;

16 7. Potential competitive or collaborative opportunities with North America's largest
17 producer, Quebec, Canada; and

18 8. Investments or actions that could be taken by the State that would produce a
19 tangible economic return.

20 In conducting its examination, the commission shall review models that have been
21 successfully employed to promote other Maine food product industries, including marine
22 products and agricultural products such as potatoes and blueberries; and be it further

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

25 **Sec. 7. Meetings. Resolved:** That the commission may meet only when the
26 Legislature is not in regular or special session; and be it further

27 **Sec. 8. Agency cooperation. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Agriculture,
28 Food and Rural Resources, the Commissioner of Conservation and the Chief Executive
29 Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine shall each designate a representative from their
30 respective agencies to serve as a resource to the commission, respond to information
31 requests and attend commission meetings; and be it further

32 **Sec. 9. Interim report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 7, 2011, the
33 commission shall submit an interim report that includes a summary of its discussions and
34 its findings and an outline of the commission's work plan for the next interim to the joint
35 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters; and
36 be it further

