

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 839**

H.P. 636

House of Representatives, March 3, 2011

### **Resolve, To Study Motor Fuel and Fuel Additives and To Explore Alternatives to Ethanol Motor Fuel**

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Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative O'CONNOR of Berwick.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: MacDONALD of Boothbay, STEVENS of Bangor and  
Representatives: DUNPHY of Embden, GIFFORD of Lincoln, HARVELL of Farmington,  
LIBBY of Waterboro, MALABY of Hancock, McCLELLAN of Raymond, PARRY of  
Arundel, Senator: THOMAS of Somerset.

1       **Sec. 1. Convene stakeholder group. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of  
2 Environmental Protection, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," shall convene  
3 a stakeholder group to conduct a study regarding motor fuel and fuel additives, including  
4 but not limited to acetaldehyde in ethanol motor fuel. The commissioner, the  
5 Commissioner of Transportation, the Commissioner of Economic and Community  
6 Development and the chair of the Public Utilities Commission, or their designees, shall  
7 serve as members of the stakeholder group, and the commissioner shall invite the  
8 participation of interested persons and groups, including but not limited to consumer  
9 protection groups, small businesses, motor vehicle dealers and owners of motor fuel  
10 refueling stations; and be it further

11       **Sec. 2. Stakeholder group. Resolved:** That, in conducting the study under  
12 section 1, the stakeholder group shall specifically:

13           1. Review the extent to which the State is in compliance with the federal Clean Air  
14 Act Amendments of 1990 with respect to the emissions of acetaldehyde produced by the  
15 combustion of ethanol motor fuel;

16           2. Examine whether an increase from 10% ethanol to 15% ethanol in gasoline blends  
17 will increase the level of acetaldehyde emissions and decrease the State's ability to  
18 comply with the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990;

19           3. Conduct a comprehensive review of the statewide costs associated with  
20 acetaldehyde in ethanol motor fuel, including but not limited to the corrosive effects of  
21 acetaldehyde on small engines, the effects of acetaldehyde on marine resources in the  
22 State and the negative impact such effects have on business in the State;

23           4. Examine the impact of federal subsidies for corn used to produce ethanol on the  
24 cost of food locally and globally;

25           5. Compare the net energy value of corn-derived ethanol to that of ethanol derived  
26 from other products, such as other grains or algae;

27           6. Explore alternatives to ethanol motor fuel, including but not limited to biofuels  
28 developed from wood pulp; and

29           7. Develop a plan to reduce the supply of ethanol motor fuel in the State; and be it  
30 further

31       **Sec. 3. Reporting date established; legislation. Resolved:** That the  
32 commissioner shall report the stakeholder group's findings and recommendations,  
33 including proposed implementing legislation, regarding the study required by section 1 to  
34 the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by December 1,  
35 2011. The committee may report out a bill relating to those recommendations to the  
36 Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

## SUMMARY

This resolve requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to convene a stakeholder group to conduct a study regarding motor fuel and fuel additives, including but not limited to acetaldehyde in ethanol motor fuel. The stakeholder group is directed to study the State's compliance with the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 with respect to emissions of acetaldehyde produced by the combustion of ethanol gasoline, and conduct a comprehensive review of the statewide costs associated with the acetaldehyde in ethanol motor fuel, including the corrosive effects of acetaldehyde on small engines, the effects of acetaldehyde on marine resources in the State and the negative impact such effects have on business in the State. The commissioner shall report the stakeholder group's findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by December 1, 2011. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.