

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ROBS

L.D. 855

Date: 6/11/13

(Filing No. H-467)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 606, L.D. 855, "Resolve, To Create a Study Group To Research the Possibility of a Virtual Legislature"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Study Issues Associated with Implementation of a Virtual Legislature'

Amend the resolve in the emergency preamble in the 2nd whereas paragraph in the last line (page 1, line 4 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Legislature" the following: 'to research and propose methods for remote citizen participation'

Amend the resolve in the emergency preamble by inserting after the 2nd whereas paragraph the following:

'Whereas, many citizens of this State cannot participate in public hearings due to their distance from the state capitol; and'

Amend the resolve in section 2 by striking out all of subsection 4 (page 1, line 27 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

4. One member of the public appointed by the President of the Senate;

5. One member of the public appointed by the Speaker of the House;'

Amend the resolve in section 2 by renumbering the subsections to read consecutively.

Amend the resolve in section 5 in subsection 3 in the first line (page 2, line 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "and"

Amend the resolve in section 5 in subsection 4 in the last line (page 2, line 12 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "." and inserting the following: ';'

Amend the resolve in section 5 by inserting after subsection 4 the following:

5. Strategies for remote citizen participation in public hearings; and

6. Recommendations regarding implementing a pilot program.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 6 and 7 and inserting the following:

2 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
3 necessary staffing services to the task force except that Legislative Council staff support
4 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session. The office of the
5 Secretary of the Senate and office of the Clerk of the House must provide staff assistance
6 to the task force upon request by the task force; and be it further

7 **Sec. 7. Preliminary report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 4, 2013,
8 the task force shall submit for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 126th
9 Legislature a preliminary report that includes the recommendations of the task force
10 regarding the study, including recommendations that can be implemented immediately
11 and recommendations for a pilot program; and be it further

12 **Sec. 8. Final report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 5, 2014, the task
13 force shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including
14 suggested legislation, for presentation to the First Regular Session of the 127th
15 Legislature.'

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This amendment provides that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House
18 each appoint one public member of the task force instead of having the Governor appoint
19 2 public members. It requires the task force to study strategies for remote citizen
20 participation and to make pilot program recommendations. It provides that the office of
21 the Secretary of the Senate and office of the Clerk of the House assist the task force upon
22 request. It also provides that the task force submit a preliminary report by December 4,
23 2013 and in addition a final report on November 5, 2014.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 855

LR 1729(02)

Resolve, To Create a Study Group To Research the Possibility of a Virtual Legislature

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

A(H-467)

Committee: State and Local Government

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$4,500 in fiscal year 2013-14. The Legislature's proposed budget includes \$10,000 in fiscal year 2013-14 for legislative studies. Whether the amount is sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The Legislature can provide staff assistance to the study group utilizing existing budgeted resources.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The additional costs associated with serving on the study group can be absorbed by the Department of the Attorney General utilizing existing budgeted resources.