

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1222

S.P. 420

In Senate, March 26, 2013

**Resolve, To Create a Task Force on Maine's Ethics and
Transparency Laws**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CAIN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative CAREY of Lewiston and
Senators: GOODALL of Sagadahoc, KATZ of Kennebec.

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 Task Force To Study Maine's Governmental
4 Ethics and Transparency Laws; and

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

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

12 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force To Study
13 Maine's Governmental Ethics and Transparency Laws, referred to in this resolve as "the
14 task force," is established; and be it further

15 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 13
16 members appointed as follows:

17 1. Six members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
18 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,
19 2 of whom serve on the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, 2 of
20 whom serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs and 2 of
21 whom serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary; and

22 2. Seven 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, 2 of whom serve on the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local
25 Government, 2 of whom serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal
26 Affairs and 3 of whom serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

27 The task force shall seek input and information from the Executive Director of the
28 Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, the chair of the Right To
29 Know Advisory Committee and the Attorney General; 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 task
32 force; and be it further

33 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. 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 task force. If 30 days or more
38 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been

1 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority
2 for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

3 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall review the State's laws
4 concerning governmental ethics and transparency, including but not limited to laws
5 governing financial disclosure for the legislative and executive branches, conflicts of
6 interest, lobbyist disclosure and public records access, and shall recommend any changes
7 it determines appropriate. In conducting its review, the task force shall examine the laws
8 in effect in other states, information and recommendations provided by public policy
9 organizations and information provided by the public; and be it further

10 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
11 necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

12 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 4, 2013, the task force
13 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
14 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. After receipt
15 and review of the report, the joint standing committee may submit a bill implementing the
16 recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

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

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study Maine's Governmental Ethics and
21 Transparency Laws.