

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1757

H.P. 1261

House of Representatives, February 4, 2014

**Resolve, To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission on Independent
Living and Disability**

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative PETERSON of Rumford.

Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and

Representatives: CASSIDY of Lubec, CRAFTS of Lisbon, Speaker EVES of North Berwick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, GATTINE of Westbrook, MALABY of Hancock, STUCKEY of Portland, Senator: LACHOWICZ 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 Blue Ribbon Commission on Independent
4 Living and Disability; and

5 **Whereas,** the work of the commission must be initiated before the 90-day period
6 expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for
7 submission to the next 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. Commission established. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
13 353, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Independent Living and Disability, referred to in
14 this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it further

15 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
16 16 members, a majority of whom must be individuals with a disability, appointed as
17 follows:

18 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

19 2. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House;

21 3. Seven members of the public with experience or expertise in the challenges of
22 independent living for individuals with a disability in the State, 2 of whom are appointed
23 by the President of the Senate, 2 of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the House and
24 3 of whom are appointed by the Governor;

25 4. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or a designee;

26 5. The Executive Director of the Disability Rights Center, or a designee;

27 6. The executive director of Alpha One, or a designee;

28 7. The chair of the Maine Statewide Independent Living Council, or a designee; and

29 8. The Attorney General, or a designee; 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

1 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
2 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
3 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
4 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority
5 for the commission to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

6 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall evaluate the needs of Maine
7 citizens with a disability, review existing available resources and services and
8 recommend priorities for cost-effective changes designed to promote independent living
9 and community inclusion. Specifically, the commission shall examine the State's laws
10 governing access to housing, transportation, public accommodation, education and
11 employment. In developing its recommendations on measures to improve the lives of,
12 and increase overall community participation by, Maine citizens with a disability, the
13 commission shall consider the expansion of access to:

- 14 1. Assistive technology;
- 15 2. Appropriate and accessible housing and community-based living opportunities;
- 16 3. Appropriate education and training opportunities to promote employment of
17 individuals with a disability; and
- 18 4. Cost-effective transportation; and be it further

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

21 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 5, 2014, the
22 commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations,
23 including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
24 jurisdiction over health and human services matters. After receipt and review of the
25 report, the joint standing committee may submit a bill relating to the subject matter of the
26 report to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

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

29 SUMMARY

30 This resolve establishes the Blue Ribbon Commission on Independent Living and
31 Disability.