

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 74

H.P. 68

House of Representatives, January 16, 2015

**Resolve, To Establish a Task Force To Ensure Equity in the Benefits
Provided to Military Service Members**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, LONG of Sherman, STANLEY of
Medway, TURNER of Burlington, WALLACE of Dexter.

1 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to Ensure
2 Equity in the Benefits Provided to Military Service Members in the State, referred to in
3 this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further

4 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 9
5 members as follows:

6 1. Two members of the Senate serving on the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans
7 and Legal Affairs, appointed by the President of the Senate;

8 2. A representative of the American Legion, appointed by the President of the
9 Senate;

10 3. Three members of the House of Representatives serving on the Joint Standing
11 Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

12 4. A representative of an honor guard association within the State, appointed by the
13 Speaker of the House;

14 5. A representative of the Department of Maine Marine Corps League, appointed by
15 the Governor; and

16 6. The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management or the
17 commissioner's designee; and be it further

18 **Sec. 3. Compensation. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, public
19 members of the task force are not entitled to reimbursement for their expenses; and be it
20 further

21 **Sec. 4. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
22 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task
23 force; and be it further

24 **Sec. 5. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
25 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
26 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
27 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
28 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more
29 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
30 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority
31 for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

32 **Sec. 6. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall study the benefits established
33 for military service members and veterans in the State and develop recommendations to
34 ensure the benefits are being provided. The task force shall ascertain if there is equity in
35 the establishment, provision and application of these benefits and if the benefits are
36 known to those eligible to receive them. The benefits include, but are not limited to,
37 property tax exemptions, free automobile registration, automobile sales tax exemption,

1 complimentary and reduced-rate licenses to hunt, trap and fish and day use passes to state
2 parks and historic sites; and be it further

3 **Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
4 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it
5 further

6 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 2, 2015, the task force
7 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
8 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. The joint
9 standing committee is authorized to introduce a bill to the Second Regular Session of the
10 127th Legislature related to the subject matter of the report.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This resolve establishes the Task Force to Ensure Equity in the Benefits Provided to
13 Military Service Members in the State. The task force is directed to study and find out if
14 there is equity in the establishment, provision and application of the benefits and if the
15 benefits are known to those eligible to receive them. The benefits include, but are not
16 limited to, property tax exemptions, free automobile registration, automobile sales tax
17 exemption, complimentary and reduced-rate licenses to hunt, trap and fish and day use
18 passes to state parks and historic sites. The task force is also directed to submit a report to
19 the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, and the joint standing
20 committee is authorized to introduce a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th
21 Legislature based on that report.