

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 549

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H.P. 373

House of Representatives, February 26, 2015

### Resolve, To Create the Task Force on Disaster Resiliency

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative RYKERSON of Kittery.  
Cosponsored by Senator DUTREMBLE of York and  
Representatives: BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, CAMPBELL of Newfield,  
CAMPBELL of Orrington, FOLEY of Wells, HAWKE of Boothbay Harbor, HIGGINS of  
Dover-Foxcroft, MAREAN of Hollis, TUELL of East Machias.

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 on Disaster Resiliency to  
4 investigate and strengthen the State's disaster response to extreme weather and sea level  
5 rise events; and

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

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

13           **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
14 353, the Task Force on Disaster Resiliency, referred to in this resolve as "the task force,"  
15 is established; and be it further

16           **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 14  
17 members appointed as follows:

18           1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including  
19 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

20           2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
21 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats  
22 in the Legislature;

23           3. Three members with expertise in disaster response appointed by the President of  
24 the Senate;

25           4. Three members with expertise in extreme weather and sea level rise events  
26 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

27           5. One member representing the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency  
28 Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency;

29           6. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;  
30 and

31           7. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the  
32 commissioner's designee; and be it further

33           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate  
34 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task  
35 force; and be it further

1 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all  
2 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
3 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
4 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,  
5 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more  
6 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been  
7 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority  
8 for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

9 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall:

- 10 1. Catalog resources in the State available to respond to extreme weather and sea  
11 level rise events;
- 12 2. Determine and evaluate community preparedness for extreme weather and sea  
13 level rise events throughout the State;
- 14 3. Produce recommendations to strengthen the State's resilience regarding extreme  
15 weather and sea level rise events; and
- 16 4. Determine the cost-effectiveness of the recommendations under subsection 3; and  
17 be it further

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

20 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 2, 2015, the task force  
21 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
22 legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

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

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This resolve establishes the Task Force on Disaster Resiliency to investigate and  
27 strengthen the State's disaster response to extreme weather and sea level rise events.