

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 872

H.P. 591

House of Representatives, March 12, 2015

**Resolve, Establishing the Study Commission To Ensure Integrity in
the Use of Service Animals**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WARD of Dedham.
Cosponsored by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and
Representatives: BURSTEIN of Lincolnville, MALABY of Hancock, SANDERSON of
Chelsea, TUELL of East Machias, VACHON of Scarborough, Senators: HASKELL of
Cumberland, LIBBY of Androscoggin.

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 Study Commission To Ensure Integrity in the
4 Use of Service Animals in order to study training and certification requirements of
5 service animals, methods of disseminating information about service animals to the
6 public and documentation of training and certification of service animals; and

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

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

14 **Sec. 1. Study commission established. Resolved:** That the Study Commission
15 To Ensure Integrity in the Use of Service Animals, referred to in this resolve as "the study
16 commission," is established; and be it further

17 **Sec. 2. Study commission membership. Resolved:** That the study
18 commission consists of 12 members appointed as follows:

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

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

24 3. Two members who are trainers of service or therapy animals appointed by the
25 President of the Senate;

26 4. One member who is a restaurant owner or operator appointed by the Speaker of
27 the House;

28 5. One member of the business community appointed by the Governor; and

29 6. One member of the Maine Human Rights Commission appointed by the
30 Governor; and be it further

31 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
32 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the
33 study commission; and be it further

34 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of study commission. Resolved:** That all
35 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
36 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 study commission. If 30 days or
3 more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have
4 been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant
5 authority for the study commission to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

6 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the study commission shall study:

- 7 1. Training requirements for service animals;
- 8 2. Certifying organizations and existing certification requirements and development
9 of new state-based certification requirements, if needed;
- 10 3. The necessity of educating the public about service animals and methods of
11 disseminating information about service animals; and
- 12 4. Documentation of training and certification of service animals and other similar
13 proofs and development of additional documentation and proofs, if needed; and be it
14 further

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

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

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

23 SUMMARY

24 This resolve establishes the Study Commission To Ensure Integrity in the Use of
25 Service Animals in order to study training and certification requirements of service
26 animals, methods of disseminating information about service animals to the public and
27 documentation of training and certification of service animals.