

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1693

H.P. 1158

House of Representatives, April 1, 2016

**Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Economic,
Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GIDEON of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, MAKER of Calais,
McCABE of Skowhegan, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, TUELL of East Machias, Senators:
EDGECOMB of Aroostook, PATRICK of Oxford.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy**
2 **Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry established. Resolved:** That the
3 Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine
4 Biomass Industry, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it
5 further

6 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
7 commission consists of 15 members appointed as follows:

8 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a
9 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

10 2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
11 House, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
12 in the Legislature;

13 3. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

14 A. A commercial wood harvester who supplies biomass;

15 B. A representative of the biomass electric industry;

16 C. A representative of a sawmill located in the State; and

17 D. A scientist from the University of Maine who studies forest health and
18 silviculture;

19 4. Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

20 A. A representative of a conservation organization;

21 B. A representative of a pulp and paper manufacturer located in the State;

22 C. A representative of commercial timber holdings in the State; and

23 D. A representative of a business that uses biomass for thermal generation or
24 cogeneration or an expert in the use of biomass energy for thermal generation or
25 cogeneration;

26 5. The Director of the Efficiency Maine Trust or the director's designee; and

27 6. The chair of the Public Utilities Commission or the chair's designee; and be it
28 further

29 **Sec. 3. Commission chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senator is the
30 Senate chair of the commission and the first-named member of the House of
31 Representatives is the House chair of the commission; and be it further

32 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
33 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
34 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
35 Council once all appointments have been made. When the appointment of all members
36 has been completed, the chairs of the commission shall call and convene the first meeting

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

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

6 1. Review and evaluate the economic, environmental and energy benefits of Maine's
7 biomass resources, as well as public policy and economic proposals to create and
8 maintain a sustainable future for the Maine biomass industry;

9 2. Consider the interconnection of economic markets for biomass and forest products
10 and the energy policy of the State;

11 3. Consider whether the environmental, economic and energy benefits of biomass
12 support updating the State's energy policy to strengthen and increase the role that biomass
13 and the forest products industry play throughout the State;

14 4. Consider the costs of implementing any recommendations and the effect of
15 leaving current policies in place; and

16 5. Examine any other issues to further the purposes of the study.

17 In conducting the duties under this section, the commission shall seek public input
18 from individuals, loggers, landowners, the forest products industry, consumers of biomass
19 resources, biomass energy generators and municipal and economic development officials
20 from communities supported by biomass and forest products and shall consult and
21 collaborate with stakeholders and experts in the fields of economic development, natural
22 resources and energy policy; and be it further

23 **Sec. 6. Meetings. Resolved:** That the commission shall hold at least 4 meetings;
24 and be it further

25 **Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
26 staffing services to the commission except that the commission shall employ a 3rd party
27 to help with data collection, research and best practices and to develop policy
28 recommendations in collaboration with the commission. The commission may invite the
29 Department of Economic and Community Development, the Public Utilities Commission,
30 the Office of the Public Advocate, the Governor's Energy Office, the Efficiency Maine
31 Trust, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and other appropriate
32 agencies of State Government to provide additional staff support or assistance to the
33 commission. Funding for the commission must be derived from federal funds provided
34 by the United States Department of Energy to the Governor's Energy Office; and be it
35 further

36 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit a report and any
37 suggested implementing legislation for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on
38 Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture,
39 Conservation and Forestry no later than December 6, 2016.

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SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of the Maine Biomass Industry. Membership of the commission consists of, among others, Legislators, a wood harvester and representatives of the biomass energy generation industry, a sawmill, the pulp and paper industry and users of biomass energy. The commission is required to examine and evaluate the economic, environmental and energy benefits of Maine's biomass resources, as well as public policy and economic proposals to create and maintain a sustainable future for the Maine biomass industry, and determine whether the environmental, economic and energy benefits of biomass support updating the State's energy policy to strengthen and increase the role that biomass and the forest products industry play throughout the State. The commission is required to report the results of its study and any recommendations by December 6, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.