

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1256

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H.P. 879

House of Representatives, March 30, 2017

**Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Implement Ranked-choice  
Voting**

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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 CHAPMAN of Brooksville.

1           **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
2 353, the Task Force To Implement Ranked-choice Voting, referred to in this resolve as  
3 "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. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee;
- 7           2. The Deputy Secretary of State overseeing the Bureau of Corporations, Elections  
8 and Commissions or the deputy secretary's designee;
- 9           3. The Director of the Division of Elections and Voting within the Bureau of  
10 Corporations, Elections and Commissions or the director's designee;
- 11           4. The chair of the Committee for Ranked Choice Voting, or the chair's designee;
- 12           5. One member appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 13           6. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 14           7. One member who is an expert in voting systems appointed by the President of the  
15 University of Maine; and
- 16           8. Two at-large members appointed by the members of the task force described in  
17 subsections 1 to 7; and be it further

18           **Sec. 3. Chair. Resolved:** That the Secretary of State or the secretary's designee  
19 is the chair of the task force; and be it further

20           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all  
21 appointments under section 2, subsections 1 to 7 must be made no later than 30 days  
22 following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the  
23 Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been  
24 completed. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not  
25 all appointments have been made, the chair may request authority and the Legislative  
26 Council may grant authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it  
27 further

28           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall make recommendations for  
29 rules and changes to the law to implement ranked-choice voting. These proposed rules  
30 and changes to the law must include but are not limited to provisions for the following:

- 31           1. Training for municipal clerks and other election officials;
- 32           2. Template design for ballots;
- 33           3. The use of paper ballots and the optional use of optical scanners;
- 34           4. The role of municipal clerks and other election officials;

- 1 5. Marking ballots;
- 2 6. Counting ballots;
- 3 7. Declaration of an election winner;
- 4 8. Recounts; and
- 5 9. Challenges of election results, including challenges due to mistake or fraud; and
- 6 be it further

7 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Department of the Secretary of  
8 State shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

9 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2017, the task force  
10 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
11 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. The Joint  
12 Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs may report out legislation concerning  
13 the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This resolve establishes the Task Force To Implement Ranked-choice Voting. The  
16 task force is charged with making recommendations for rules and changes to the law to  
17 implement ranked-choice voting. The task force is required to submit a report containing  
18 its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal  
19 Affairs by December 6, 2017. The Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal  
20 Affairs may report out legislation concerning the report to the Second Regular Session of  
21 the 128th Legislature.