

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SAK  
ROS

L.D. 1180

Date: 6-16-2021

(Filing No. H-696)

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 858,  
L.D. 1180, "An Act To Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on a Person's  
Participation in a Rental Assistance Program"

Amend the amendment in the first indented paragraph in the first line (page 1, line 12  
in amendment) by striking out the following: "by inserting after section 3" and inserting  
the following: 'by striking out the title and substituting'

Amend the amendment by inserting after the first indented paragraph the following:

' **Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study Discrimination against Tenants  
Who Participate in Federal, State and Local Tenant-based Rental Assistance  
Programs** '

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the first indented paragraph and  
inserting the following:

'Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** this resolve establishes the Commission To Study Discrimination against  
Tenants Who Participate in Federal, State and Local Tenant-based Rental Assistance  
Programs; and

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

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

**Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission To Study  
Discrimination against Tenants Who Participate in Federal, State and Local Tenant-based  
Rental Assistance Programs, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

1           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of  
2 8 members appointed as follows:

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

5           2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
6 House, including 2 members from the party holding the largest number of seats in the  
7 Legislature and one member from the party holding the 2nd-largest number of seats in the  
8 Legislature;

9           3. One member representing an organization representing tenants receiving housing  
10 assistance under the federal housing choice voucher program, appointed by the President  
11 of the Senate;

12           4. One member representing an organization representing landlords, appointed by the  
13 Speaker of the House; and

14           5. One member representing housing authorities in the State, appointed by the  
15 President of the Senate.

16           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
17 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the  
18 commission.

19           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
20 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
21 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
22 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,  
23 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more  
24 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been  
25 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for  
26 the commission to meet and conduct its business.

27           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study discrimination against  
28 tenants who participate in federal, state and local tenant-based rental assistance programs.  
29 The commission, in conducting its study, shall meet with and interview stakeholders.

30           **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide  
31 necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support  
32 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

33           **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 1, 2021, the commission  
34 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
35 legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. The joint  
36 standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th  
37 Legislature.

38           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation  
39 takes effect when approved.''

40           Amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
41 section number to read consecutively.

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve establishing the Commission To Study Discrimination against Tenants Who Participate in Federal, State and Local Tenant-based Rental Assistance Programs. The commission is directed to submit a report by December 1, 2021 to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, which is authorized to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

SPONSORED BY: Arata

(Representative ARATA, A.)

TOWN: New Gloucester

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
**(See attached)**



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1180

LR 1582(04)

## An Act To Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on a Person's Participation in a Rental Assistance Program

Fiscal Note for House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-696)  
 Sponsor: Rep. Arata of New Gloucester  
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

#### Legislative Cost/Study

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	(\$59,771)	(\$58,815)	(\$60,617)	(\$62,476)
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	(\$59,771)	(\$58,815)	(\$60,617)	(\$62,476)

#### Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$2,750 in fiscal year 2021-22. The Legislature's budget for the 2022-2023 biennium includes \$10,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$10,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 for the costs of legislative studies, as well as \$21,260 of balances carried over from prior years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs of providing staffing assistance to the study during the interim can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources.

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This amendment removes General Fund appropriations to the Maine Human Rights Commission of \$59,771 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$58,815 in fiscal year 2020-21.