



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1591

H.P. 1180

House of Representatives, April 27, 2021

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry To Identify Places with Offensive Names and Methods of Changing Those Names

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland. Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, McDONALD of Stonington, O'NEIL of Saco, PLUECKER of Warren, Senator: MAXMIN of Lincoln.

- 1 Sec. 1. Identification of offensive names for geographic features and other 2 places. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall 3 form a working group to identify place names that are in violation of the Maine Revised 4 Statutes, Title 1, chapter 27. The working group shall:
 - 1. Seek to develop the best methods to identify all offensive place names in the State;
- 6 2. Study and suggest the most effective methods of changing the place names, including
 7 development of a process to automatically change offensive names;
- 8 3. Review the effectiveness of the current method for reporting offensive place names
 9 found in Title 5, section 4632 and suggest changes or modifications; and

4. Examine methods to identify other place names that may have negative historical connotations or meanings that require further review, including, but not limited to, identifying the individuals and institutions in the State that profited or benefited from the global economy of enslavement. As part of this examination, the department may recommend or identify groups or organizations that may be helpful in such identification and review going forward.

- 16 By December 1, 2021, the department shall submit a report pursuant to this section, 17 including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.
- 18 SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to form a working group to identify place names that are in violation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, chapter 27. It directs the working group to seek to develop the best methods of identification, study and suggest the most effective methods to change names, review current methods and identify other place names with negative historical connotations. It directs the department to report the findings of the working group, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary by December 1, 2021.