

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1934

H.P. 1444

House of Representatives, January 25, 2022

**Resolve, Changing the Identifying and Reporting Responsibilities
and Extending the Reporting Deadline for the Identification of
Places in the State with Offensive Names**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 21, 2022. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

1 **Sec. 1. Resolve 2021, c. 98, §1, amended. Resolved:** That Resolve 2021, c. 98,
2 §1 is amended to read:

3 **Sec. 1. Identification of offensive names for geographic features and other**
4 **places. Resolved:** That the ~~Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry~~
5 Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations shall
6 ~~work jointly with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and~~
7 ~~Maine Tribal Populations, jointly referred to in this resolve as "the department and~~
8 ~~commission,"~~ to review state law regarding offensive place names. The ~~department and~~
9 ~~commission~~ shall:

10 1. Review the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 1101 to determine and suggest
11 any additional words to be included in the current definition of offensive name;

12 2. Establish a uniform process for renaming geographic features and other places that
13 have offensive names; ~~and~~

14 3. Explore the most effective methods of identifying the individuals, entities and
15 institutions in the State that profited or benefited in any manner from the global economy
16 of enslavement; ~~and~~

17 4. Create the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names within the
18 commission, and appoint members to the advisory committee, in order to accelerate the
19 process by which offensive place names in the State are identified and replaced. This
20 subsection governs the creation and activities of the advisory committee.

21 A. The commission may determine the number of members that will serve on the
22 advisory committee.

23 B. The commission may determine the expertise of the members appointed to serve on
24 the advisory committee, which may include representation from indigenous and tribal
25 populations; members of the African American community; people with a deep
26 knowledge of civil rights, anthropology or history; representatives of the Department
27 of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Office of the Attorney General or Maine
28 Human Rights Commission; and members of the public.

29 C. The advisory committee shall consult with local community representatives,
30 municipalities, historically impacted populations, state, federal and local governments
31 and the public in order to broadly solicit, review and recommend to the commission
32 changes that will facilitate the proactive and systematic development and review of
33 name-change proposals.

34 D. The advisory committee shall establish a process to solicit and assist with proposals
35 to the United States Board on Geographic Names to change offensive place names.

36 It is the intent of this resolve that the ~~department and commission~~ Permanent
37 Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations carry out ~~their~~ its
38 responsibilities within the existing resources of the ~~department and~~ commission. The
39 ~~department and~~ commission may solicit, accept and expend funds to cover any expenses
40 that are in excess of existing resources.

41 By December 1, ~~2021~~ 2022, the ~~Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry~~
42 Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations shall
43 submit a report pursuant to this section, including any suggested legislation, to the ~~Joint~~

1 ~~Standing Committee on Judiciary~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature having
2 jurisdiction over judiciary matters. The joint standing committee may submit a bill related
3 to the report to the ~~Second~~ First Regular Session of the ~~130th~~ 131st Legislature.

4 **SUMMARY**

5 This resolve amends Resolve 2021, chapter 98 to extend from December 1, 2021 to
6 December 1, 2022 the deadline for submitting the required report to the Legislature,
7 removes the requirement that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
8 work jointly with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and
9 Tribal Populations to review state law regarding offensive place names and authorizes the
10 Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations to
11 establish an advisory committee to facilitate the process of identifying offensive place
12 names.