

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1024

H.P. 660

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

**Resolve, to Study the Impact of Divorce, Child Support Issues and
Custody Issues on Children, Parents, Health, Poverty and Housing
Insecurity**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester.
Cosponsored by Senator KEIM of Oxford and
Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe,
FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, LIBBY of Auburn, QUINT of Hodgdon, RANA of
Bangor, SAMPSON of Alfred, STOVER of Boothbay.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
2 353, the Study Commission on the Impact of Divorce, Child Support Issues and Custody
3 Issues on Children, Parents, Health, Poverty and Housing Insecurity referred to in this
4 resolve as "the commission," is established.

5 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
6 14 members appointed as follows:

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

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

12 3. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who is an advocate for or a
13 professional working with indigent families;

14 4. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who is an advocate for or a
15 professional working with homeless families;

16 5. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who is an advocate for or a
17 professional working with victims of domestic violence;

18 6. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who is a professional working
19 in the area of nutrition;

20 7. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who is an advocate for or a
21 professional working with children;

22 8. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House who is a professional working
23 in the area of human development;

24 9. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House who represents an organization
25 of physicians;

26 10. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House who represents an organization
27 of therapists or psychologists;

28 11. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House who represents law
29 enforcement; and

30 12. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House who represents a faith-based
31 organization.

32 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair
33 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the
34 commission.

35 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
36 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
37 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
38 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
39 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
40 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been

1 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for
2 the commission to meet and conduct its business.

3 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the impact of divorce,
4 child support issues and custody issues on children, parents, health, poverty and housing
5 insecurity.

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

9 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2023, the commission
10 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
11 legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

12 **Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the commission shall seek funding
13 contributions to fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the
14 Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund the
15 study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no
16 meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed.

17 SUMMARY

18 This resolve establishes the Study Commission on the Impact of Divorce, Child
19 Support Issues and Custody Issues on Children, Parents, Health, Poverty and Housing
20 Insecurity.