

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1029

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H.P. 665

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

**Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Commemorate the 250th  
Anniversary of the Founding of the United States**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

*Robert B. Hunt*  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PAULHUS of Bath.  
Cosponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport, Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and  
Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, FAULKINGHAM of  
Winter Harbor, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, TERRY of Gorham, Senators:  
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

1           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Maine Semiquincentennial  
2 Commission, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

3           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
4 353, the commission consists of 16 members as follows:

- 5           1. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 6           2. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
7 House;
- 8           3. The Secretary of State, or the Secretary of State's designee;
- 9           4. The State Historian, or the State Historian's designee;
- 10          5. The Chair of the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council, or the chair's designee;
- 11          6. The State Archivist, or the State Archivist's designee;
- 12          7. The Director of the Maine State Museum, or the director's designee;
- 13          8. The State Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee;
- 14          9. A representative of a statewide organization to promote tourism in the State,  
15 appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 16          10. A representative of a statewide organization that promotes arts and culture in the  
17 State, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 18          11. A representative of a history museum or historical society, appointed by the  
19 Speaker of the House;
- 20          12. A representative of a statewide humanities organization that uses humanities as a  
21 tool for positive change in the State's communities, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 22          13. A representative of a statewide organization that promotes and enhances the value  
23 of Maine libraries, appointed by the Secretary of State;
- 24          14. A representative of the historic preservation profession, appointed by the Secretary  
25 of State;
- 26          15. A representative of prekindergarten to grade 12 education and adult education,  
27 appointed by the Governor; and
- 28          16. A representative of local government, appointed by the Governor.

29           In addition to the 16 members under this section, the Governor, the President of the  
30 Senate and the Speaker of the House serve as ex officio members of the commission.

31           **Sec. 3. Appointment terms. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
32 Legislators appointed to the commission pursuant to section 2 serve terms coincident with  
33 their legislative terms and are appointed every 2 years. Legislators may be reappointed to  
34 the commission and may continue to serve until their replacements are designated. Other  
35 appointed members are appointed for terms that expire December 31, 2026; a vacancy is  
36 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

37           **Sec. 4. Appointments; chair; convening of commission. Resolved:** That,  
38 notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, all appointments must be made no later than 30 days  
39 following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the

1 Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed.  
2 When appointment of all members is complete, the Executive Director of the Legislative  
3 Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission no later than December  
4 1, 2023. The Secretary of State shall name 5 members to constitute an executive  
5 committee, which shall act as chair of the commission. The Secretary of State, with advice  
6 from the commission, also may appoint honorary members and shall establish an advisory  
7 council composed of people who are especially interested in the celebration of the United  
8 States Semiquincentennial.

9 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall develop and coordinate the  
10 commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America,  
11 referred to in this resolve as "the commemoration," through educational and historical  
12 events, activities and programs throughout the State. All agencies of the State and political  
13 subdivisions of the State shall cooperate with the commission and may grant funds,  
14 property and services to the commission to carry out the purposes of this resolve. To carry  
15 out the purposes of this resolve the commission may:

16 1. Enter into contracts that have been approved by the Secretary of State and the  
17 Attorney General;

18 2. Adopt an official flag, seal or other emblem for the commemoration, copyright an  
19 official flag, seal or emblem in the name of the State and, with the approval of the Secretary  
20 of State, lease or sell the title or right to use the official flag, seal or emblem upon terms  
21 determined by the commission. Any revenue from the lease or sale of the title or right to  
22 use an official flag, seal or emblem under this subsection must be credited to the fund  
23 established in section 12; and

24 3. Accept donations of money, property or services and the cooperation of the Federal  
25 Government and state, civic, patriotic and historical groups and educational institutions.  
26 Any donations of money under this subsection must be credited to the fund established in  
27 section 12.

28 **Sec. 6. Proclamation. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
29 Governor shall issue a proclamation inviting the people of the State and of the United States  
30 to participate in and observe the commemoration.

31 **Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
32 Secretary of State may employ administrative staff to serve the commission.

33 **Sec. 8. Expenses. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the executive  
34 committee established under section 4 shall draft a commission budget and may pay  
35 necessary expenses of the commission from the fund established under section 12. The  
36 Secretary of State may request additional appropriations from the Legislature for necessary  
37 expenses of the commission.

38 **Sec. 9. Compensation. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, a member  
39 of the commission may receive reimbursement for necessary expenses related to the  
40 performance of the member's duties on the commission.

41 **Sec. 10. Meetings. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the  
42 commission may hold up to 5 meetings a year, one of which must be a public hearing. The

1 executive committee established under section 4 may request authority and the Secretary  
2 of State may grant authority for additional meetings.

3 **Sec. 11. Report. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission  
4 shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on its activities.

5 **Sec. 12. Maine Semiquincentennial Fund. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding  
6 Joint Rule 353, the Maine Semiquincentennial Fund, referred to in this resolve as "the  
7 fund," is established. The fund is administered by the Department of the Secretary of State  
8 on behalf of the commission. Balances in the fund may not lapse and must be carried  
9 forward and used for the purposes of this resolve. The commission may accept and deposit  
10 in the fund money from appropriations and private and public sources. The Treasurer of  
11 State shall invest unexpended money in the fund and all proceeds of these investments  
12 accrue to the fund. The fund terminates on December 31, 2027 and any unexpended balance  
13 in the fund on December 31, 2027 must be transferred to the General Fund.

#### 14 **SUMMARY**

15 This resolve establishes the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission to develop and  
16 coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United  
17 States of America through educational and historical events, activities and programs  
18 throughout the State.