

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1198

H.P. 758

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community  
Development to Convene a Working Group to Improve the State's  
10-year Economic Development Strategy**

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Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and  
Business suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLETT of Waterford.  
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and  
Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, MOONEN of  
Portland, NESS of Fryeburg.

1           **Sec. 1. Department of Economic and Community Development to establish**  
2           **working group to improve State's 10-year economic development strategy.**

3           **Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, referred  
4           to in this resolve as "the commissioner," shall convene a working group, referred to in this  
5           resolve as "the group," to improve the State's 10-year economic development strategy in  
6           order to develop a diverse and sustainable economy that raises the State's standard of living;  
7           raises the State's average weekly wage; reduces poverty; attracts outside investment and  
8           venture capital in order to compete with other states regionally and nationally; attracts  
9           research and development opportunities; improves the State's regulatory environment;  
10          improves the State's competitive position; creates and retains jobs that add economic value  
11          or bring in money from outside the State, supporting public sector and service jobs;  
12          provides economic development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and addresses  
13          climate change; supports individuals' aspirations and enables each person to maximize that  
14          person's contribution to productive work, community and personal fulfillment; and makes  
15          the State an economic contributor to the country's national and international goals.

16          **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commissioner shall appoint to the group  
17          at least 12 members who have knowledge and experience in economic and community  
18          development in the State. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall serve as  
19          an ex officio member of the group. All appointments must be made within 30 days of the  
20          effective date of this resolve. The members of the group shall select a chair from the group's  
21          membership. Members of the group serve without compensation. The Department of  
22          Economic and Community Development shall provide administrative support to the group.  
23          The group shall disband after completing its duties under section 3.

24          **Sec. 3. Meetings; duties. Resolved:** That the chair shall schedule the first meeting  
25          of the group within 30 days of the date of the final appointment to the group. The group  
26          shall meet at other times the chair determines necessary to perform and complete the duties  
27          of the group. In its work, the group shall consider and develop improvements to the State's  
28          10-year economic development strategy, including, but not limited to:

- 29           1. The development of workforce skills;
- 30           2. The attraction and retention of a diverse workforce;
- 31           3. The creation and retention of quality jobs that add economic value or bring in money  
32           from outside the State;
- 33           4. The attraction of outside investment and venture capital and how the State can  
34           successfully compete with other states for investment and venture capital;
- 35           5. The attraction of research and development opportunities;
- 36           6. The connection to and development of sectors tied to the 21st century economy;
- 37           7. Establishing connections to cutting-edge growth sectors;
- 38           8. Providing education that produces career or college-ready graduates and provides  
39           training for 21st century jobs and integrating all educational institutions for appropriate  
40           lifetime learning;
- 41           9. The best ways to promote stability and certainty in the economic environment;
- 42           10. Incentives and penalties that should be put in place to help attract and support jobs;

1 11. Potential solutions to the economic disparity between the urban and rural areas of  
2 the State; and

3 12. Identifying the strategy's potential impacts on taxes, regulation, health care, energy  
4 costs and labor laws, as well as anything that affects the State's ability to compete for  
5 innovative companies and jobs that add economic value or bring in money from outside  
6 the State.

7 Upon completion of its work, the group shall submit its work to the commissioner for  
8 review and make any changes to its proposed improvements that the commissioner  
9 determines appropriate.

10 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2023, the commissioner  
11 shall submit a report including the proposed improvements to the 10-year economic  
12 development strategy as described in section 3 and any recommended legislation to the  
13 Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and  
14 Business. The joint standing committee may report out legislation concerning  
15 improvements to the 10-year economic development strategy to the Second Regular  
16 Session of the 131st Legislature.

## 17 SUMMARY

18 This resolve directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to  
19 establish a working group to improve the State's 10-year economic development strategy  
20 in order to develop a diverse and sustainable economy that raises the State's standard of  
21 living; raises the State's average weekly wage; reduces poverty; attracts outside investment  
22 and venture capital in order to compete with other states regionally and nationally; attracts  
23 research and development opportunities; improves the State's regulatory environment;  
24 improves the State's competitive position; creates and retains jobs that add economic value  
25 or bring in money from outside the State in order to sustain public sector and service jobs;  
26 provides economic development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and addresses  
27 climate change; supports individuals' aspirations and enables each person to maximize that  
28 person's contribution to productive work, community and personal fulfillment; and makes  
29 the State an economic contributor to the country's national and international goals. The  
30 resolve directs the commissioner to submit the proposed improvements to the 10-year  
31 economic development strategy to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation,  
32 Development, Economic Advancement and Business by December 6, 2023 and authorizes  
33 the joint standing committee to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the  
34 131st Legislature.