

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1200

H.P. 760

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

**Resolve, to Convene a Driver Education Working Group to
Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income
Families**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, FAY of Raymond, LaROCHELLE of Augusta,
MEYER of Eliot, PLUECKER of Warren, ROEDER of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay,
WHITE of Waterville.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** for persons who have not attained 20 years of age, taking a
2 driver education course and achieving the required number of driving hours is necessary in
3 order to obtain a driver's license; and

4 **Whereas,** the cost of taking a driver education course is a financial hardship for many
5 families; and

6 **Whereas,** families living in rural areas have a more difficult time gaining access to
7 driver education courses; and

8 **Whereas,** youth and families also face many other obstacles when trying to comply
9 with the legal requirements to obtain a driver's license; now, therefore, be it

10 **Sec. 1. Working group. Resolved:** That the Department of the Secretary of State,
11 Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall convene a working group to study potential solutions
12 regarding the cost of and access to driver education for underserved populations and low-
13 income families.

14 **Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint
15 Rule 353, the working group membership is as follows:

16 1. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on
17 Transportation, appointed by the President of the Senate;

18 2. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing
19 Committee on Transportation, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20 3. One member representing the driver education school industry, appointed by the
21 Secretary of State;

22 4. One member representing a State Police traffic division, appointed by the Chief of
23 the State Police;

24 5. One or more members representing affected groups, including, but not limited to,
25 low-income families, immigrant or refugee communities, tribal communities and foster
26 children, appointed by the Secretary of State;

27 6. An employee of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles who is responsible for the oversight
28 of driver education, appointed by the Secretary of State;

29 7. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

30 8. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;

31 9. The Deputy Secretary of State having oversight over the Bureau of Motor Vehicles
32 or the deputy secretary's designee; and

33 10. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee.

34 **Sec. 3. Compensation. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, members
35 of the working group may not be compensated for their work on the working group, but
36 legislative members may receive the legislative per diem.

37 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall:

38 1. Identify and document the current status of the availability of the State's driver
39 education program;

