

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1247

H.P. 795

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

Resolve, to Study Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and Study Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and
Representatives: HASENFUS of Readfield, LAJOIE of Lewiston, MADIGAN of Waterville,
MATHIESON of Kittery, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RECKITT of South Portland,
SALISBURY of Westbrook, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

1 **Sec. 1. Committee established. Resolved:** That the Law Enforcement Training
2 and Qualifications Study Committee, referred to in this resolve as "the committee," is
3 established.

4 **Sec. 2. Committee membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
5 353, the committee consists of 17 members as follows:

6 1. Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including
7 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

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

11 3. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;

12 4. The Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy or the director's designee; and

13 5. Eight members appointed as follows:

14 A. A member of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy curriculum review committee,
15 appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 B. A representative of a statewide association of municipal police chiefs, appointed by
17 the President of the Senate;

18 C. A representative of a statewide association of county sheriffs, appointed by the
19 President of the Senate;

20 D. A representative of a statewide association of municipalities, appointed by the
21 President of the Senate;

22 E. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates for civil liberties,
23 appointed by the President of the Senate;

24 F. A representative of a public institution of higher education that provides courses at
25 the associate, bachelor's or master's level in criminal justice, appointed by the Speaker
26 of the House;

27 G. A representative of a statewide association that advocates for restorative justice,
28 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

29 H. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of victims of
30 crime, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

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

33 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of committee. Resolved:** That, for
34 appointments made under section 2, subsection 5, the appointing authorities shall make an
35 effort to represent the racial, ethnic and gender diversity of the State. All appointments
36 must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The
37 appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once
38 all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall
39 call and convene the first meeting of the committee. If 30 days or more after the effective
40 date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may

1 request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the committee to meet
2 and conduct its business.

3 **Sec. 5. Meetings. Resolved:** That the committee is authorized to meet 6 times.

4 **Sec. 6. Duties. Resolved:** That the committee shall:

5 1. Review the history and purpose of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, the statutes
6 that govern the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and its board of trustees and any
7 educational credentials applicable to teachers and students at the Maine Criminal Justice
8 Academy;

9 2. Review how the current curriculum of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy is
10 developed, revised, funded and delivered and, in comparison to other states, the benefits,
11 challenges and effects of using volunteer or full-time personnel to provide education and
12 training;

13 3. Review any job task analysis completed by the Department of Public Safety that
14 examines the role of rural and urban law enforcement officers in the State and examine the
15 need for additional training resources, including a comparison of similar training protocols
16 and delivery approaches in other states and the effect of different models on policing
17 outcomes and on the quality of life of all residents and visitors;

18 4. Review strategies, including changes to training and education requirements, to
19 enhance recruitment for law enforcement employment from underrepresented
20 communities, including ethnic minorities, women, new immigrants and communities of
21 color;

22 5. Review working relationships between the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and
23 public and private institutions of higher education, opportunities for obtaining credentials
24 and continuing education and sources for financial aid;

25 6. Seek input from municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies regarding
26 law enforcement officer training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and whether
27 increasing resources and staffing would improve recruitment and retention of staff and the
28 quality of instruction and further the development of skills and leadership for candidates
29 and staff; and

30 7. Compile recommendations for improving the training of law enforcement officers
31 through community and education partnerships, including by addressing statewide
32 recruitment needs, racial justice and social issues, mental health and substance use disorder
33 issues and any identified needs for additional requirements for law enforcement officers
34 and candidates.

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

38 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than
39 January 3, 2024, the committee shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on
40 Criminal Justice and Public Safety that includes its recommendations, including suggested
41 legislation. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may submit legislation
42 relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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SUMMARY

This bill establishes the 17-member Law Enforcement Training and Qualifications Study Committee to review law enforcement officer training. The committee is authorized to meet 6 times and is required to report its recommendations for training for law enforcement officers in racial issues, racial justice and social issues and for additional requirements for law enforcement officers and candidates by January 3, 2024. The Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety is authorized to submit legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.