

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1339

H.P. 853

House of Representatives, March 28, 2023

**Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Forming the Maine
Commission on Disabilities**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, FAY of Raymond,
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, TERRY of Gorham, WHITE of Waterville, WILLIAMS
of Bar Harbor, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** one in 4 adults in Maine has a disability; and

2 **Whereas,** the State has a significant role in supporting more inclusive state programs,
3 communities and health care to help people with or at risk for disabilities to be well and
4 active in their communities; and

5 **Whereas,** the services for those with disabilities are dispersed throughout state
6 departments, which can result in lack of effectiveness or utilization; and

7 **Whereas,** other New England states such as Rhode Island and New Hampshire have
8 successfully integrated their services into a commission on disabilities model to increase
9 accessibility and transparency for their residents; now, therefore, be it

10 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to Study Forming
11 the Maine Commission on Disabilities, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is
12 established.

13 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
14 353, the task force consists of 14 members as follows:

- 15 1. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 16 2. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
17 House;
- 18 3. One member representing a statewide organization of consumers of mental health
19 services, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 20 4. One member representing an organization representing the deaf and hard-of-hearing
21 community, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 22 5. One member representing an organization representing older adults, appointed by
23 the President of the Senate;
- 24 6. One member who is a municipal code enforcement officer, appointed by the
25 President of the Senate;
- 26 7. One member representing a statewide self-advocacy organization for people with
27 developmental disabilities, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 28 8. One member representing an organization representing the blind and visually
29 impaired community, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 30 9. One member representing an organization providing independent living services,
31 appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 32 10. One member representing the Maine Statewide Independent Living Council
33 administered by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, appointed by
34 the Executive Director of the Maine Statewide Independent Living Council;
- 35 11. One member representing the Maine Municipal Association, appointed by the
36 Executive Director of the Maine Municipal Association;
- 37 12. The State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's designee;
- 38 13. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee; and
- 39 14. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee.

