

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1566

H.P. 1011

House of Representatives, April 11, 2023

**Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Recommend Strategies to
Achieve the Goal of Eliminating Traffic Fatalities and Serious
Injuries**

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 ANKELES of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and
Representatives: ZAGER of Portland, ZEIGLER of Montville, Senators: CHIPMAN of
Cumberland, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** there are frequent crashes resulting in injury and human death
2 and complaints about traffic speeds in communities across Maine; and

3 **Whereas,** Vision Zero strategies, which use the safe system approach toward
4 eliminating injuries for road users, are enabling communities around the United States to
5 eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries; and

6 **Whereas,** state-level action is critical to implementing Vision Zero strategies and
7 bringing the resources and attention needed to achieve safer streets for all road users across
8 the entire State; now, therefore, be it

9 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to Recommend
10 Strategies to Achieve the Goal of Eliminating Traffic Fatalities and Serious Injuries,
11 referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established.

12 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
13 353, the task force consists of the following 22 members:

14 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including at
15 least one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Senate and
16 including at least one member of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation;

17 2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives, including at least one member of the party holding the 2nd
19 largest number of seats in the House and including at least one member of the Joint
20 Standing Committee on Transportation;

21 3. The Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the
22 Department of Health and Human Services or the director's designee;

23 4. The Director of the Bureau of Highway Safety within the Department of Public
24 Safety or the director's designee;

25 5. The Director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future or the director's
26 designee;

27 6. The Chief Engineer of the Department of Transportation or the chief engineer's
28 designee;

29 7. One member representing municipal law enforcement leadership, appointed by the
30 President of the Senate;

31 8. One member representing municipal transportation engineers, appointed by the
32 President of the Senate;

33 9. One member representing municipal economic development, appointed by the
34 President of the Senate;

35 10. One member representing urban design with municipal land use and street design
36 experience, appointed by the President of the Senate;

37 11. Three public members appointed by the President of the Senate and 3 public
38 members appointed by the Speaker of the House, of which 3 or more of the following must
39 be included: a representative of a group representing vulnerable road users; a state resident
40 who was injured or lost a family member in a traffic crash; a member of a community that
41 has been burdened by environmental justice issues; a person representing people with

1 mobility, visual or cognitive impairments; a bus rider; a person representing people
2 between the ages of 16 and 26 who is interested and active in creating safer roadways for
3 vulnerable road users; and a person representing people over 65 years of age who is
4 interested and active in creating safer roadways for vulnerable road users;

5 12. One member representing a statewide transit association, appointed by the Speaker
6 of the House;

7 13. One member representing a metropolitan planning organization, appointed by the
8 Speaker of the House; and

9 14. A representative of the Department of Transportation with expertise in bicycle and
10 pedestrian programs, designated by the Commissioner of Transportation.

11 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the first-named
12 Senate member of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and the first-named
13 House member of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation serve as cochairs of the
14 task force.

15 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That,
16 notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, all appointments must be made no later than 30 days
17 following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the
18 Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed.
19 After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the
20 task force. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not
21 all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative
22 Council may grant authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business.

23 Each public member of the task force under section 2, subsection 11 serves for a term
24 of 2 years except that, of the members first appointed, 3 members serve for an initial term
25 of one year and 3 members serve for an initial term of 2 years. Each public member serves
26 for the term of appointment until the member's successor is appointed. A public member
27 who has completed a term of membership may be reappointed to the task force. Vacancies
28 in the task force must be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

29 **Sec. 5. Duties; meetings. Resolved:** That the task force shall convene a public
30 process to study, examine and review all aspects of traffic safety, with a particular focus
31 on access, equity and mobility for all road users using the safe system approach, and to
32 advise the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Transportation and the Maine
33 Turnpike Authority regarding policies, programs, research and priorities to help achieve
34 the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries. To fulfill this purpose and
35 these duties, the task force shall:

36 1. Develop a comprehensive and coordinated action plan to help achieve the goal of
37 eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roadways in the State through
38 engineering, education and enforcement systems that analyze physical transportation
39 designs, with a focus on the equitable treatment of all transportation users;

40 2. Identify short-term and long-term data-driven strategies and street design best
41 practices with measurable goals and target dates to reduce traffic fatalities and serious
42 injuries, with the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2035,
43 including studying the processes by which the Department of Transportation sets speed
44 limits across the State and recommending evidence-based alternative methods;

1 3. Promote effective and transparent collection of traffic safety data and dissemination
2 of such data via a publicly accessible data portal that includes, but is not limited to, the
3 most dangerous intersections in the State, traffic crash data with information on non-fatal
4 injuries and demographic data and a high injury network that indicates the roadways in the
5 State with the highest injury rates;

6 4. Encourage the elimination of dangerous road conditions by advancing active
7 transportation and mass transit as safe and viable forms of alternative transportation
8 throughout the State for persons of all ages and abilities;

9 5. Provide recommendations for changes to state, county and municipal street design
10 standards, state laws and municipal ordinances to achieve the goal of eliminating all traffic
11 fatalities and serious injuries by 2035;

12 6. Develop an action plan to implement and promote the safe system approach, Vision
13 Zero strategies and evidence-based safety countermeasures and street design standards to
14 help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road
15 users;

16 7. Create and maintain an interactive Internet website to provide information about the
17 task force, including: the membership of the task force; the task force's plans, progress
18 reports, meeting notices, agendas and minutes; educational materials about Vision Zero
19 strategies; a link to the safety data portal required pursuant to subsection 3; and any other
20 information the task force considers necessary;

21 8. Serve as an advisor to the Department of Transportation and other state agencies
22 and transportation authorities with regard to roadway planning and transportation
23 infrastructure planning;

24 9. Provide advice and assistance to county and municipal governments to develop their
25 own Vision Zero strategy plans and street design standards; and

26 10. Review and provide feedback on an annual basis to the Department of
27 Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority on their respective capital plans before
28 these agencies provide testimony at their respective public budget hearings before the
29 Legislature. The feedback must be made publicly available on the website of the task force
30 before the agencies provide their testimony.

31 Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the task force shall hold meetings open to the public
32 and broadly advertised through at least 6 nonprofit organizations that address transportation
33 issues. Public meetings must occur at least 6 times each year and work sessions open to
34 the public at least 2 times each year, to happen in 2023, 2024 and 2025, except that in 2023
35 the task force may hold as many public meetings and work sessions open to the public as
36 practicable. Public hearings must be held at least once annually to review
37 recommendations. The chairs shall provide the opportunity for knowledgeable
38 stakeholders to participate throughout the study process and to provide oral testimony and
39 written comment on the task force's draft recommendations. Knowledgeable stakeholders
40 may include representatives from organizations representing economic development,
41 transportation engineering and construction firms, highway users, age-friendly community
42 groups, organizations representing people with disabilities, downtown organizations, smart
43 growth and community design and development organizations, municipal and public works

1 organizations, trucking and shipping firms, bicyclists and pedestrians, housing advocates,
2 environmental justice advocates, law enforcement professionals and the tourism industry.

3 For the purposes of this resolve, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following
4 terms have the following meanings.

5 "Active transportation" means mobility options that are powered primarily by human
6 energy, including pedestrian mobility, such as walking and running; mobility assistive
7 devices, such as wheelchairs, bicycles and tricycles; and small personal devices, such as
8 skateboards and foot scooters, and that include accommodations pursuant to the federal
9 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

10 "Safe system approach" means evaluating traffic safety and designing a transportation
11 system with the goal of eliminating fatal and serious injuries for all road users by
12 acknowledging that traffic fatalities and serious injuries are unacceptable, humans make
13 mistakes, humans are vulnerable, responsibility is shared, safety is proactive and
14 redundancy is crucial.

15 "Vision Zero strategies" means actionable strategies using the safe system approach,
16 including, but not limited to, prioritizing roadway design, focusing on speed management,
17 ensuring equitable enforcement and using effective education strategies.

18 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
19 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force, except that
20 Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or
21 special session.

22 **Sec. 7. Reports. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than
23 December 6, 2023, the task force shall submit a report that includes its initial findings and
24 recommendations, the number of road traffic fatalities and serious injuries and a review of
25 the implementation of the action plans under section 5 and any suggested legislation for
26 presentation to the Governor and the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The
27 Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may submit legislation for presentation to the
28 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. Updated reports must be submitted to
29 the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
30 transportation matters in 2024 and 2025.

31 SUMMARY

32 This resolve establishes the Task Force to Recommend Strategies to Achieve the Goal
33 of Eliminating Traffic Fatalities and Serious Injuries.