

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1597

S.P. 628

In Senate, April 11, 2023

Resolve, to Establish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and
Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, FARRIN of Somerset, HICKMAN of Kennebec,
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort
Fairfield.

1 **Sec. 1. Study commission established. Resolved:** That the Gagetown Harmful
2 Chemical Study Commission, referred to in this resolve as "the study commission," is
3 established.

4 **Sec. 2. Study commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint
5 Rule 353, the study commission consists of 10 members appointed as follows:

6 1. Two 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. Two 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. Two members who represent veterans' advocacy organizations, one appointed by the
12 President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;

13 4. One member who is a family member of a veteran who served at the Canadian
14 military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, appointed by the President
15 of the Senate;

16 5. One member with expertise processing veterans' claims for benefits related to
17 harmful chemicals, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

18 6. Two members who served at Gagetown and were exposed to harmful chemicals
19 during their service, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the
20 Speaker of the House.

21 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair
22 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the study
23 commission.

24 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of study commission. Resolved:** That all
25 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
26 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
27 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
28 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the study commission. If 30 days or
29 more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have
30 been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant
31 authority for the study commission to meet and conduct its business.

32 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the study commission shall study the impacts of
33 exposure to harmful chemicals on veterans who served at the Canadian military support
34 base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada.

35 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
36 necessary staffing services to the study commission, except that Legislative Council staff
37 support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

38 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2023, the study
39 commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including
40 suggested legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st
41 Legislature.

SUMMARY

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This resolve establishes the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission to study the impacts of exposure to harmful chemicals on veterans who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada.