

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1616

H.P. 1041

House of Representatives, April 11, 2023

**An Act to Make the Description of the State Seal Gender-neutral
and to Depict One of the Human Images on the State Flag as Female**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TERRY of Gorham. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Representative: PAULHUS of Bath.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §201, first ¶** is amended to read:

3 The seal of the State ~~shall~~ must be a shield, argent, charged with a pine tree (~~Americana;~~
4 ~~quinis ex uno folliculo setis~~ Pinus strobus) with a moose deer (~~eervus alces~~ Alces alces), at
5 the foot of it, recumbent; supporters: on dexter side, a ~~husbandman~~ farmer, resting on a
6 scythe; on sinister side, a ~~seaman~~ sailor, resting on an anchor.

7 **Sec. 2. Redesign of human image on state flag.** The Secretary of State shall
8 commission a redesign of the flag that contains a design similar to the coat of arms of the
9 State currently on the flag except depicting one of the human images on the coat of arms
10 as a female. By December 6, 2023 the Secretary of State shall submit a recommended
11 design of the state flag to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.
12 The committee may report out legislation based upon the recommended design to the
13 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill amends the law governing the state seal by making the descriptions of the
16 figures appearing on the state seal gender-neutral by changing "husbandman" to "farmer"
17 and "seaman" to "sailor." This bill also directs the Secretary of State to commission a
18 redesign of the state flag depicting one of the human figures as a female.