

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1641

H.P. 1051

House of Representatives, April 12, 2023

Resolve, to Further Study the Role of Water as a Resource

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JAUCH of
Topsham, OSHER of Orono.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the
2 Role of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine, referred to in this resolve as "the
3 commission," is established.

4 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
5 353, the commission consists of 17 members:

6 1. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

7 A. Two members of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding
8 the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

9 B. One member of the public residing in northern Maine;

10 C. One member representing the interests of persons who bottle or package water for
11 commercial sale;

12 D. One member representing the interests of municipal water utilities; and

13 E. Two members who are members of federally recognized Indian nations, tribes or
14 bands in the State based on the joint recommendation of the tribal governments of the
15 Mi'kmaq Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at
16 Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation. If the
17 tribal governments do not make unanimous joint recommendations, the President of
18 the Senate shall appoint 2 members of federally recognized Indian nations, tribes or
19 bands in the State;

20 2. Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:

21 A. Two members of the House of Representatives, including a member from each of
22 the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

23 B. One member of the public residing in western Maine;

24 C. One member representing the interests of businesses that use water to irrigate
25 agricultural products;

26 D. One member representing organizations involved in the protection of the
27 environment; and

28 E. One member with general legal expertise in water rights and water ownership;

29 3. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;

30 4. The State Geologist or the State Geologist's designee;

31 5. The director of the drinking water program within the Department of Health and
32 Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, division of
33 environmental health or the director's designee; and

34 6. The chair of the Public Utilities Commission or the chair's designee.

35 **Sec. 3. Chairs; quorum. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the
36 Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of
37 the commission. A quorum is 9 members and a quorum must be present to start a meeting
38 but is not required to continue a meeting.

1 of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine that was established pursuant to Resolve 2021,
2 chapter 185.