

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1824

S.P. 740

In Senate, April 27, 2023

**Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Constitution of
Maine**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary 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 Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the
2 Constitution of Maine, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

3 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
4 353, the commission consists of 13 members as follows:

5 1. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
6 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

7 2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
8 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
9 in the Legislature;

10 3. Two active or retired judges or justices appointed by the Chief Justice of the
11 Supreme Judicial Court;

12 4. Two constitutional law scholars with expertise in the history of the Constitution of
13 Maine appointed by the President of the Senate;

14 5. One member of a federally recognized Indian tribe in the State appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House;

16 6. One representative of the state chapter of a national civil liberties organization
17 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

18 7. The Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee.

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

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

30 **Sec. 5. Duties; meetings. Resolved:** That the commission is authorized to meet
31 12 times and shall study and review the Constitution of Maine and recommend changes
32 and amendments as considered necessary and desirable.

33 Proposed changes and amendments for the commission to consider include, but are not
34 limited to, provisions for:

35 1. Strengthening Maine's Declaration of Rights, Article I of the constitution;

36 2. Removing procedural minutiae from the constitution that are better left to statute;

37 3. Creating the position of Lieutenant Governor;

38 4. Enabling the popular election of constitutional officers;

39 5. Establishing 4-year terms for Senators;

40 6. Reducing the number of members of the Legislature;

