

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 5, 2000 to May 12, 2000

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
AUGUST 11, 2000

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
2000

of time to make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved: That, upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide staffing assistance to the commission. The Office of Fiscal and Program Review and the Department of Transportation, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Conservation and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services shall also provide assistance as requested by the commission; and be it further

Sec. 8. Compensation. Resolved: That the members of the commission who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Other members of the commission who are not compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved: That the chairs of the commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the commission's budget. The commission may not incur expenses exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the commission and its staff with a status report on the commission's budget, expenditures incurred and remaining available funds; and be it further

Sec. 10. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

2000-01

LEGISLATURE

Commission to Study Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, All-terrain Vehicles and Watercraft

Personal Services	\$4,400
All Other	5,700
Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative	

members of the Commission to Study Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, All-terrain Vehicles and Watercraft, for meeting notices and to print the required report.

LEGISLATURE	
TOTAL	\$10,100

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective May 10, 2000.

CHAPTER 132

H.P. 1677 - L.D. 2343

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, a comprehensive study of Maine's low-income heating assistance program is needed to assess the effectiveness and the needs of clients of that program and since this information would be most useful in preparation for winter; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 16 members as follows:

1. The Executive Director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the director's designee;
2. The Public Advocate;

3. The following members appointed by the President of the Senate:

- A. Two members of the Senate. When making the appointments, the President of the Senate shall give preference to members from the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and to members from the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy;
- B. One member from a community action program agency that delivers the federal Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program;
- C. One member from a business that provides energy maintenance services;
- D. One member from a regulated utility providing energy for home heating;
- E. One member from an organization of oil dealers;
- F. One member from a regulated local distribution natural gas utility providing natural gas for home heating; and
- G. One member from an institute of higher education with expertise in home construction or energy conservation in residential structures; and

4. The following members appointed by the Speaker of the House:

- A. Two members of the House of Representatives. When making the appointments, the Speaker of the House shall give preference to members from the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and to members from the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy;
- B. One member representing a nonprofit agency that delivers the federal Weatherization Assistance for Low-income Persons Program;
- C. One member from an organization of petroleum distributors;
- D. One member with knowledge of residential building trades, including special knowledge of energy conservation features; and
- E. One member from a statewide organization representing low-income people; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The first named Senate member and the first named House member serve as cochairs of the task force. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive

Director of the Legislative Council upon making their appointments. The cochairs shall convene the first meeting of the task force no later than 30 days after the appointment of all members is complete; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall investigate the problems facing low-income households in the heating of their homes, including cost of heating, energy conservation, demand-side management and availability and reliability of federal programs of assistance in paying heating costs and reducing energy demand. In examining these issues, the task force shall examine the operation and effectiveness of existing programs to assist low-income households, the coordination of resources to maximize the effects of available resources, the need for state programs to supplement federal programs or to enable existing programs to serve a greater portion of those eligible and techniques to utilize resources in new ways or new combinations that have the potential for easing the burden of heating costs or enhancing the efficient use of energy for low-income households. The task force shall examine the effects of interruptible natural gas services on the supply and price of home heating oil. The task force shall examine programs and techniques that are employed in other states or countries, solicit suggestions from groups and individuals with expertise in energy management and energy pricing and make recommendations for consideration by the 120th Legislature; and be it further

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the task force shall request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative Council; and be it further

Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved: That those members of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities whom they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall submit a report with an accompanying bill for the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature by November 1, 2000. If the task force requires an extension of time to make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

Sec. 8. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

2000-01

LEGISLATURE

Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households

Personal Services	\$880
All Other	1,300

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members of the Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households and to print the required report.

LEGISLATURE
TOTAL

\$2,180

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective May 10, 2000.

CHAPTER 133

S.P. 420 - L.D. 1257

Resolve, Directing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to Adopt Rules Regulating Push Polling

Sec. 1. Push polling; rulemaking. Resolved: That the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall adopt rules regulating push polling, including sanctions for candidates whose campaigns violate such rules governing push polling. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 134

S.P. 529 - L.D. 1562

Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study the Establishment of an Environmental Leadership Program

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study the Establishment of an Environmental Leadership Program, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 8 members appointed as follows:

1. Three members from the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate. When making the appointment, the President of the Senate shall give preference to members of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development or the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation; and

2. Five members from the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. When making the appointments, the Speaker of the House shall give preference to members of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development or the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation; and be it further

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first Senate member named is the Senate chair and the first House member named is the House chair; and be it further

Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved: That all initial appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their appointments. The chairs of the commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission no later than 45 days following the effective date of this resolve. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall reappoint members or appoint new members from the 120th Legislature to serve on the commission by February 15, 2001. The commission may hold up to 8 meetings; and be it further

Sec. 5. Responsibilities. Resolved: That the responsibilities of the commission include the following:

1. To develop criteria for defining a company or business as an environmental leader;

2. To develop incentives to encourage companies and businesses to become environmental leaders and to attract environmental leaders to the State; and

3. To identify opportunities for and obstacles to creating an environmental leadership program; and be it further