

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 25, 2023

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

Augusta, Maine
2023

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

Sec. 7. Stakeholder participation. Resolved: That the commission may invite the participation of stakeholders to participate in meetings or subcommittee meetings of the commission to ensure the commission has the information and expertise necessary to fulfill its duties, including, but not limited to, representatives of health insurance carriers, the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, medical graduate residency programs in the State, the Maine Public Health Association, the Maine Osteopathic Association and the Maine Association of Physician Assistants.

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than January 15, 2024, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. The joint standing committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature based on the report.

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

Effective July 7, 2023.

CHAPTER 94

H.P. 760 - L.D. 1200

Resolve, to Convene a Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families

Preamble. Whereas, for persons who have not attained 20 years of age, taking a driver education course and achieving the required number of driving hours is necessary in order to obtain a driver's license; and

Whereas, the cost of taking a driver education course is a financial hardship for many families; and

Whereas, families living in rural areas have a more difficult time gaining access to driver education courses; and

Whereas, youth and families also face many other obstacles when trying to comply with the legal requirements to obtain a driver's license; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Working group. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall convene a working group to study potential solutions regarding the cost of and access to driver education for underserved populations and low-income families.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the working group membership is as follows:

1. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, appointed by the President of the Senate;
2. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
3. One member representing the driver education school industry, appointed by the Secretary of State;
4. One member representing a State Police traffic division, appointed by the Chief of the State Police;
5. One or more members representing affected groups, including, but not limited to, low-income families, immigrant or refugee communities, tribal communities and foster children, appointed by the Secretary of State;
6. An employee of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles who is responsible for the oversight of driver education, appointed by the Secretary of State;
7. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
8. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
9. The Deputy Secretary of State having oversight over the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or the deputy secretary's designee;
10. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee; and
11. One member representing the Bureau of Highway Safety, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Sec. 3. Compensation. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, members of the working group may not be compensated for their work on the working group, but legislative members may receive the legislative per diem.

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the working group shall:

1. Identify and document the current status of the availability of the State's driver education program;
2. Examine and identify potential methods of providing driver education at a lower cost for underserved populations and low-income families;

3. Identify possible funding mechanisms to pay for part or all of driver education for low-income families; and

4. Make recommendations based on the findings of the working group.

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall provide necessary staffing services to the working group, and Legislative Council staff support is not authorized.

Sec. 6. Report. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than February 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 95

S.P. 628 - L.D. 1597

**Resolve, to Establish the
Gagetown Harmful Chemical
Study Commission**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of study commission. Resolved: That all 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 once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the study commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the study commission to meet and conduct its business.

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

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

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 6, 2023, the study commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 96

H.P. 1300 - L.D. 2018

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Portions of Chapter
301: Fee Schedule and
Administrative Procedures for
Payment of Court or
Commission Assigned Counsel,
a Late-filed Major Substantive
Rule of the Maine Commission
on Indigent Legal Services**

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