

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

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

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature outside the legislative rule acceptance period; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; 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. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 301: Fee Schedule and Administrative Procedures for Payment of Court or Commission Assigned Counsel, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A outside the legislative rule acceptance period, is authorized.

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

Effective July 10, 2023.

CHAPTER 97

H.P. 623 - L.D. 976

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established.

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the task force consists of 7 members appointed as follows:

1. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, appointed by the President of the Senate;

2. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3. One member representing the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services, appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services;

4. One member representing Disability Rights Maine, appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services;

5. One member representing the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services;

6. One member representing the Department of Labor who works with compliance issues regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, appointed by the Commissioner of Labor; and

7. One member of the public who is a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the Senate member is the Senate chair and the House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. 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 task force. 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 task force to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall study accessibility to appropriate communication methods for deaf and hard-of-hearing patients in health care settings and how that accessibility may be improved. The task force shall consider, but is not limited to, the following:

1. The availability of American Sign Language interpreters in health care settings;

2. The availability of other communication technologies in health care settings, such as video interpreters, automatically generated voice transcriptions and automatically generated captions;

3. Staff education and training programs on overcoming barriers to health care experienced by deaf and hard-of-hearing patients; and

4. Successful models for overcoming barriers to health care experienced by deaf and hard-of-hearing patients.