

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 445 - L.D. 609

**Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in
Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions**

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

Whereas, this resolve establishes the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; 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. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 15 members appointed as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a member 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 a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. The Director of the Maine State Housing Authority, or the director's designee;
4. One member representing the Office of the Governor, appointed by the Governor;
5. Four public members, one representing a statewide municipal association, one representing a statewide organization that advocates for affordable housing, one

representing statewide agricultural interests and one who is in the building trades, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

6. Five public members, one representing a regional planning association or a statewide organization that advocates for smart growth policies and projects, one representing the real estate industry, one who is a residential developer, one representing an organization that advocates for low-income or middle-income renters or homeowners and one representing a local or statewide organization promoting civil rights that has racial justice or racial equity as its primary mission, 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 commission.

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

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission is authorized to meet 6 times and shall:

1. Review data on housing shortages in the State for low-income and middle-income households;
2. Review state laws that affect the local regulation of housing;
3. Review efforts in other states and municipalities to address housing shortages through changes to zoning and land use restrictions;
4. Consider measures that would encourage increased housing options in the State, including but not limited to municipal incentives, state mandates, eliminating or limiting single-family-only zones and allowing greater housing density near transit, jobs, schools or neighborhood centers; and
5. Review and consider the historical role of race and racism in zoning policies and the best measures to ensure that state and municipal zoning laws do not serve as barriers to racial equality.

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. Report. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than November 3, 2021, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved: That the commission shall seek funding contributions to fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the

Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund the study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed.

Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

LEGISLATURE

Study Commissions - Funding 0444

Initiative: Allocates funds received from contributions for the costs to the Legislature of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
Personal Services	\$880	\$0
All Other	\$1,370	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,250	\$0

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