



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 646

H.P. 414

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unregulated Storm
Water Pollution**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta,
DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, OSHER of Orono, RIELLY of
Westbrook, TERRY of Gorham.

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

3 **Whereas,** this legislation establishes the Commission to Study How to Address
4 Unregulated Storm Water Pollution; and

5 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires so that the study
6 may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative
7 session; and

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

12 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study How
13 to Address Unregulated Storm Water Pollution, referred to in this resolve as "the
14 commission," is established.

15 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
16 353, the commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

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

19 2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number
21 of seats in the Legislature;

22 3. Two representatives of environmental or community groups, appointed by the
23 President of the Senate;

24 4. One representative of municipal government, appointed by the Speaker of the
25 House;

26 5. One engineer or representative from a soil and water conservation district, appointed
27 by the Speaker of the House;

28 6. The Director of the Bureau of Water Quality within the Department of
29 Environmental Protection or the director's designee;

30 7. The Director of the Bureau of Land Resources within the Department of
31 Environmental Protection or the director's designee;

32 8. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;
33 and

34 9. The Commissioner of Marine Resources or the commissioner's designee.

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

38 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
39 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
40 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative

1 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
2 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission within 45 days. If 30
3 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments
4 have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant
5 authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

6 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall meet to review, study and
7 analyze existing scientific literature and data on storm water pollution gathered from
8 stakeholder input and how it has affected or potentially will affect the State's valuable
9 waters, habitats and species along the coast and shall:

10 1. Identify the actual and potential effects of storm water pollution on public and
11 environmental health, including on valuable fresh water and marine species and critical
12 habitats for commercially important species;

13 2. Compile scientific storm water data to identify knowledge gaps that hinder the
14 State's ability to craft law, policy and other responses to mitigate storm water pollution and
15 determine methods to streamline the processes by which the State manages storm water
16 pollution;

17 3. Prioritize strategies for filling storm water data knowledge gaps;

18 4. Recommend policies and tools to better reduce sources of storm water pollution and
19 prevent increased storm water pollution caused by legacy sources, climate change and
20 increasing urbanization; and

21 5. Identify barriers, such as staffing and budget, to adopting the necessary policies and
22 tools to properly address storm water pollution to protect public health, essential habitats
23 and commercially important species.

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

27 **Sec. 7. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the commission may seek financial
28 contributions to fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the
29 Legislative Council in accordance with its policies.

30 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 3, 2025, the commission
31 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to date, including suggested
32 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The
33 joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the
34 132nd Legislature related to the subject matter of the report.

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

37 SUMMARY

38 This resolve establishes the Commission to Study How to Address Unregulated Storm
39 Water Pollution. The commission is directed to review, study and analyze existing
40 scientific literature and data on storm water pollution and to submit a report to the Joint
41 Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by December 3, 2025.