



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1641

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H.P. 1051

House of Representatives, April 12, 2023

### Resolve, to Further Study the Role of Water as a Resource

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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.  
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JAUCH of  
Topsham, OSHER of Orono.

1           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the  
2 Role of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine, referred to in this resolve as "the  
3 commission," is established.

4           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
5 353, the commission consists of 17 members:

6           1. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

7           A. Two members of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding  
8 the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

9           B. One member of the public residing in northern Maine;

10           C. One member representing the interests of persons who bottle or package water for  
11 commercial sale;

12           D. One member representing the interests of municipal water utilities; and

13           E. Two members who are members of federally recognized Indian nations, tribes or  
14 bands in the State based on the joint recommendation of the tribal governments of the  
15 Mi'kmaq Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at  
16 Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation. If the  
17 tribal governments do not make unanimous joint recommendations, the President of  
18 the Senate shall appoint 2 members of federally recognized Indian nations, tribes or  
19 bands in the State;

20           2. Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:

21           A. Two members of the House of Representatives, including a member from each of  
22 the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

23           B. One member of the public residing in western Maine;

24           C. One member representing the interests of businesses that use water to irrigate  
25 agricultural products;

26           D. One member representing organizations involved in the protection of the  
27 environment; and

28           E. One member with general legal expertise in water rights and water ownership;

29           3. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;

30           4. The State Geologist or the State Geologist's designee;

31           5. The director of the drinking water program within the Department of Health and  
32 Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, division of  
33 environmental health or the director's designee; and

34           6. The chair of the Public Utilities Commission or the chair's designee.

35           **Sec. 3. Chairs; quorum. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the  
36 Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of  
37 the commission. A quorum is 9 members and a quorum must be present to start a meeting  
38 but is not required to continue a meeting.



1 of Water as a Resource in the State of Maine that was established pursuant to Resolve 2021,  
2 chapter 185.