



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1675

S.P. 574

In Senate, December 21, 2011

**Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Facilitate the Development
of Unoccupied Mills**

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2011. Referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HOBBS of York.
Cosponsored by Senator: SULLIVAN of York.

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 Task Force To Facilitate the Development
4 of Unoccupied Mills to help municipalities with unoccupied mills to develop the sites and
5 to help improve their local economies; and

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

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

13 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
14 353, the Task Force To Facilitate the Development of Unoccupied Mills, referred to in
15 this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further

16 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 13
17 members appointed as follows:

- 18 1. Four members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 19 2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives;
- 21 3. One representative from the Maine Municipal Association, appointed by the
22 President of the Senate;
- 23 4. One representative from the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, appointed by the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 25 5. One nonlegislative representative from a municipality with an unoccupied mill,
26 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- 27 6. One representative each from the Department of Economic and Community
28 Development, the Maine State Housing Authority and the Finance Authority of Maine,
29 appointed by the Governor; and be it further

30 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
31 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task
32 force; and be it further

33 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
34 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
35 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
36 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members

1 and no later than April 15, 2012, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the
2 task force. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not
3 all of the appointments have been made, the chair may request, and the Legislative
4 Council may grant, authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it
5 further

6 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall:

7 1. Review the efforts previously undertaken to develop unoccupied mills or mill sites
8 in the State;

9 2. Determine the obstacles that hinder or prevent development of the mills or mill
10 sites;

11 3. Review and determine the measures taken in other states that have successfully
12 developed similar facilities;

13 4. Determine the measures needed to remove obstacles to or to facilitate the
14 development of the mills or mill sites, including making any changes required in law or
15 local ordinances; and

16 5. Estimate the costs involved in undertaking the various measures involved in
17 developing the mills or mill sites; and be it further

18 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
19 Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine State Housing
20 Authority and the Finance Authority of Maine shall provide necessary staffing services to
21 the task force; and be it further

22 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 5, 2012, the task force
23 shall provide its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
24 Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce and economic development matters,
25 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations
26 and financial affairs and the Governor.

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

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This resolve establishes the Task Force To Facilitate the Development of Unoccupied
31 Mills. The purpose of the task force is to help municipalities with unoccupied mills to
32 develop the sites and to help improve their local economies.