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Date: (Filing No. H-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 486, L.D. 656, “Resolve, To Establish a Task Force on Franco-Americans”

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

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 Task Force on Franco-Americans is established to find ways to promote and preserve the Franco-American heritage that is shared by a great number of Maine citizens; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report prepared 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. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force on Franco-Americans, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further

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

- 1. Four members of the public appointed by the Governor;
- 2. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:
 - A. One Senator; and
 - B. Three members of the public; and
- 3. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 A. Two members of the House of Representatives; and

2 B. Three members of the public; and be it further

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

6 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
7 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
8 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
9 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
10 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more
11 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
12 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority
13 for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

14 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force, upon determining a definition for
15 who is a Franco-American, shall gather basic data about Franco-Americans, including,
16 but not limited to, how many Franco-Americans reside in the State, the percentage of the
17 State's population that is Franco-American, if they speak French, their educational
18 achievement, their annual income and where they live, and shall find ways to promote
19 and preserve the Franco-American heritage that is shared by a great number of Maine
20 citizens. The Franco-American Center at the University of Maine shall work in
21 conjunction with the task force in fulfilling the duties of the task force. The task force
22 may also work with individuals or nonprofit or charitable organizations toward the
23 completion of its duties and responsibilities; and be it further

24 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
25 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it
26 further

27 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 7, 2011, the task force
28 shall provide a preliminary report with draft recommendations to the Second Regular
29 Session of the 125th Legislature. The final report, including findings and
30 recommendations, must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
31 having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by November 7, 2012. That joint
32 standing committee is authorized to introduce a bill to the First Regular Session of the
33 126th Legislature related to the subject matter of the report; and be it further

34 **Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the task force shall seek funding
35 contributions to fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by
36 the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund
37 the study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no
38 meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed; and
39 be it further

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

42 **LEGISLATURE**

1 **Study Commissions - Funding 0444**

2 Initiative: Provides allocations to authorize expenditures for the Task Force on Franco-
3 Americans in the event that funding for the task force is received by the Legislature from
4 outside sources.

5	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2011-12	2012-13
6	Personal Services	\$660	\$660
7	All Other	\$3,485	\$3,485
8			
9	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,145	\$4,145

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

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This amendment reduces the membership of the task force in the resolve from 15
14 members to 13 members; requires that the task force work with the Franco-American
15 Center at the University of Maine, while allowing the task force to work with individuals
16 or nonprofit or charitable organizations; changes the reporting requirements to include a
17 preliminary report date of December 7, 2011 and a final report date of November 7, 2012;
18 and authorizes the Legislative Council to oversee contributions from private sources on
19 behalf of the task force.

20 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

21 **(See attached)**