

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
H.P. 760 - L.D. 1200

**Resolve, to Convene a Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate
Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families**

Preamble. **Whereas**, for persons who have not attained 20 years of age, taking a driver education course and achieving the required number of driving hours is necessary in order to obtain a driver's license; and

Whereas, the cost of taking a driver education course is a financial hardship for many families; and

Whereas, families living in rural areas have a more difficult time gaining access to driver education courses; and

Whereas, youth and families also face many other obstacles when trying to comply with the legal requirements to obtain a driver's license; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Working group. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall convene a working group to study potential solutions regarding the cost of and access to driver education for underserved populations and low-income families.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the working group membership is as follows:

1. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, appointed by the President of the Senate;
2. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
3. One member representing the driver education school industry, appointed by the Secretary of State;
4. One member representing a State Police traffic division, appointed by the Chief of the State Police;

5. One or more members representing affected groups, including, but not limited to, low-income families, immigrant or refugee communities, tribal communities and foster children, appointed by the Secretary of State;

6. An employee of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles who is responsible for the oversight of driver education, appointed by the Secretary of State;

7. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

8. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;

9. The Deputy Secretary of State having oversight over the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or the deputy secretary's designee;

10. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee; and

11. One member representing the Bureau of Highway Safety, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Sec. 3. Compensation. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, members of the working group may not be compensated for their work on the working group, but legislative members may receive the legislative per diem.

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the working group shall:

1. Identify and document the current status of the availability of the State's driver education program;

2. Examine and identify potential methods of providing driver education at a lower cost for underserved populations and low-income families;

3. Identify possible funding mechanisms to pay for part or all of driver education for low-income families; and

4. Make recommendations based on the findings of the working group.

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall provide necessary staffing services to the working group, and Legislative Council staff support is not authorized.

Sec. 6. Report. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than February 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.