

STATE OF MAINE

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

—  
H.P. 414 - L.D. 646

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

**Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

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

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. One representative of an environmental group, appointed by the President of the Senate;
4. One representative who is an engineer with expertise in the design and implementation of storm water planning for development purposes, appointed by the President of the Senate;
5. One representative of municipal government, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
6. One representative of the development industry, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
7. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;
8. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;
9. The Commissioner of Marine Resources or the commissioner's designee; and
10. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee.

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

**Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission within 45 days. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

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

1. Compile and review data regarding the actual and potential effects of storm water pollution on public and environmental health;
2. Identify and develop strategies to address knowledge gaps that hinder the State's ability to craft law, policy and other responses to mitigate storm water pollution;
3. Identify pollutants of concern that are not effectively managed through state and federal storm water laws and rules, including, but not limited to, chloride pollution, and recommend strategies to address those identified pollutants;
4. Identify and recommend strategies to address storm water pollution associated with development that is not effectively managed through state and federal storm water laws and rules, including through the municipal separate storm sewer system general permitting process, or through other regulatory tools; and
5. Identify barriers, such as staffing and budget, to adopting the necessary policies and tools to properly address storm water pollution to protect public health, water quality, essential habitats and commercially important species.

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

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

**Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 1, 2026, the commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to date, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 related to the subject matter of the report.