

## **128th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018**

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1747

S.P. 646

In Senate, December 22, 2017

Resolve, To Establish a Task Force To Examine Agricultural Issues

(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, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

Heath & Print

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake and Senators: CARPENTER of Aroostook, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DILL of Penobscot, SAVIELLO of Franklin, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: FREDETTE of Newport, TUELL of East Machias.

- 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 resolve establishes the Task Force To Examine Agricultural Issues to 4 study barriers to economic prosperity in rural parts of the State and examine how 5 innovation, infrastructure and technology may play a role in long-term, sustainable rural 6 success; and
- Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
  the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next
  legislative session; and
- 10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within 11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 13 therefore, be it
- 14 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force To Examine 15 Agricultural Issues, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it 16 further
- Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 13
   members appointed as follows:
- Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
   members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,
   a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
   an ember of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government;
- 23 2. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
  24 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
  25 in the Legislature, a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture,
  26 Conservation and Forestry and a member of the Joint Standing Committee on State and
  27 Local Government;
- 28 3. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the
   29 commissioner's designee;
- 30 4. The Director of the Bureau of General Services or the director's designee;
- 5. Two public members representing blueberry harvesters appointed by the Speaker
  of the House. The Speaker of the House shall consider any recommendations submitted
  within 20 days of the effective date of this resolve by the Wild Blueberry Commission of
  Maine regarding persons who have such expertise; and
- 6. One public member representing forest products landowners appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall consider any recommendations submitted within 20 days of the effective date of this resolve by the Maine Forest Products Council regarding persons who have such expertise; and be it further

1 Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate 2 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task 3 force; and be it further

4 Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. **Resolved:** That all 5 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 6 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, 7 8 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more 9 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 10 for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further 11

12 Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall examine agricultural issues 13 that create barriers to economic prosperity in rural parts of the State, including investment and development challenges, workforce training, labor shortages and marketing and 14 branding opportunities, such as the "Made in Maine" initiative. The task force shall also 15 16 examine how innovation, infrastructure and technology may play a role in long-term, sustainable rural success. The task force shall also examine the potential impact of 17 requiring state facilities to use a certain percentage of biofuel and the effect the 18 19 consolidation of the former Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the former Department of Conservation has had on agricultural issues in the State; and be 20 21 it further

22 Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide 23 necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than November 7, 2018, the task force
 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
 legislation, for presentation to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

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

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## SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Task Force To Examine Agricultural Issues to examine the barriers to economic prosperity in rural parts of the State and examine how innovation, infrastructure and technology may play a role in long-term, sustainable rural success.