

**Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact
Statements in the Legislative Process**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this resolve establishes a pilot project to facilitate the inclusion of economic impact statements in the legislative process; and

Whereas, the pilot project must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the pilot project may be completed and a report submitted 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. Economic impact statement pilot project established. Resolved: That, by the start of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature, the Legislative Council shall establish and oversee a pilot project to develop and implement an economic impact statement to be used to evaluate the economic impact of proposed legislation. The purpose of the pilot project is to assess the methodology, feasibility, and effectiveness of using economic impact statements to provide legislators with credible, nonpartisan, timely and accessible information regarding the economic impact of legislation in order to enhance legislative decision-making and to ascertain how legislation relates to the State's prosperity, productivity, and competitiveness.

Sec. 2. Request for proposals. Resolved: That, by August 1, 2025, the Legislative Council shall issue a request for proposals to solicit applications from public agencies, private firms, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. The Legislative Council may select one or more entities to participate in the pilot project.

Sec. 3. Selection of bills and economic impact analysis. Resolved: That, the Legislative Council, in consultation with the selected entity or entities, shall identify 3 bills during the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature to serve as the subject of economic impact analysis, focusing on legislation that enacts or amends employment, labor or taxation laws; creates a new workforce program; or significantly affects employers, employees or the state economy. The economic impact statement should consider the direct and indirect or secondary economic and demographic effects related to each bill, including its effect on talent attraction, jobs, investment, income, gross domestic product, and taxes, and should prioritize and report on the factors most relevant to each bill. The economic impact statement must be available prior to the work session on the legislation.

Sec. 4. Oversight and coordination. Resolved: That, the Legislative Council shall oversee the pilot project, including selection of proposals, coordination with participating entities, and

review of draft and final economic impact statements. The Legislative Council may designate an advisory group or existing staff to assist with oversight and implementation of the pilot project.

Sec. 5. Funding. Resolved: That, the Legislative Council may receive funds from any public, private, nonprofit, or academic source for the purposes for which the pilot project has been established.

Sec. 6. Evaluation and report. Resolved: That, no later than December 15, 2026, the Legislative Council, in coordination with any entity that was a part of the pilot project, shall submit a written report detailing findings and recommendations, including whether to expand the use of economic impact statements in the legislative process, to the Legislative Council of the 133rd Legislature.

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes a pilot project to facilitate the inclusion of economic impact statements in the legislative process.