

**LD 1073**      **Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Research Effective Strategies and Efficiencies of Legislators**

**LD 1670**      **Resolve, To Establish the Commission to Study and Recommend Solutions for Modernizing the Maine Legislature**

To:            Members, Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

From:        Lynne Caswell, Esq., Legislative Analyst

Date:         May 12, 2021

*electronic file*      <http://legislature.maine.gov/slg-meeting-materials-130th-legislature>

## SUMMARY

	<b>1073</b>	<b>1670</b>
<b>Members</b>	8 total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 from Senate, 1R + 1D</li> <li>- 2 from house; 1R + 1D</li> <li>- 2 from Governor (President Appoints</li> <li>- 2 from Judicial (Speaker appoints)</li> <li>- NCSL representative (commission shall invite)</li> </ul>	15 total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 current or former Senators</li> <li>- 5 current or former Representatives</li> <li>- 4 League of Women Voters' recommendation</li> <li>- 1 Governor appointed</li> <li>- 1 Chief Justice appointed</li> </ul>
<b>Duties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall structure, including</li> <li>- # of legislators</li> <li>- # of bills per session</li> <li>- Committees</li> <li>- Term limits</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intro of bills, process</li> <li>- Legislative Council</li> <li>- Budget process</li> <li>- Pay structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transparency</li> <li>- Physical access</li> <li>- COVID-19 changes</li> <li>- Remote access</li> <li>- Professional vs citizen legislature</li> <li>- Year-round vs. part time</li> <li>- Unicameral vs. bicameral</li> <li>- Multimember districts vs. single member</li> <li>- Staffing structure</li> </ul>
<b>Report Back</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- due December 1, 2021</li> <li>- findings, recommendations &amp; suggested legislation</li> <li>- to ???</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- due November 2, 2022</li> <li>- findings, recommendations &amp; suggested legislation</li> <li>- to SLG</li> <li>- authority for SLG to report out in 131<sup>st</sup></li> </ul>

TESTIMONY<sup>1</sup>

	<i>1073</i>	<i>1670</i>
<i>Sponsor</i>	Senator Stewart - Perennial issue - Ways to be more efficient and effective - Add member of independent caucus	Representative Kyle Bailey - Process and amount of work
<i>Proponents</i>	League of Women Voters of Maine by John Brautigam - Amend to include public input (add public member or public hearing process)	Ben Lucas, Maine Jobs - Limit # of bills/session - Eliminate silos - Increase term limits - Strategic long-range planning
<i>Opponents:</i>	none	
<i>NFNA:</i>	none	
<i>written only</i>	Joyce Simpson; George Vercelli	Jack Merrill; George Vercelli

## SPONSORS' AMENDMENT

See attached

## FISCAL IMPACT - Preliminary (OFPR)

None provided as of this date.

<sup>1</sup> The section is not intended to reflect all comments and may include unintentionally errors.

**SPONSORS' AMENDMENT**

**Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission To Research Effective Strategies and Efficiencies of Legislatures, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

**Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 16 members appointed as follows:

1. Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, 2 members from the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and 2 from the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

2. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 2 of whom are from the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature, 2 of whom are from the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature and one without a party affiliation;

3. One member of the legislature without a party affiliation appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

4. One member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State. The appointment of the member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State must be based on the joint recommendation of the tribal governments of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation to the Governor. If the tribal governments do not make a unanimous joint recommendation, the Governor shall appoint a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State and rotate the appointment among members of each federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State.

5. One member appointed by the Governor to represent the executive branch;

6. One member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to represent the judicial branch;  
and

7. Four members of the public, one selected by the President of the Senate, one selected by the Speaker of the House, one selected by the floor leader of the Senate having the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of seats in the Senate, and one selected by the floor leader of the House of Representatives having the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of seats in the House of Representatives.

**Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member and the first-named House of Representatives member shall serve as cochairs of the commission.

**Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission; number of meetings. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, 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 cochairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority but not all appointments have been made, the cochairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business. The commission shall meet at least 10 times and shall allow for virtual participation by citizens of the State.

**Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine the operations of the Legislature including:

1. The overall structure of the Legislature, including the number of Legislators;

2. The Legislative Council;

3. The process for allowing the introduction of bills and the number of bills in a legislative session and biennium;

4. The structure of joint standing committees;
5. The budget process;
6. Transparency and physical access;
7. Technological efficiencies and remote access and participation, including a review of the process changes made in response to COVID-19;
8. Legislator term limits; and
9. The citizen nature of the legislature, including the length of the legislative session and the legislation pay structure.

**Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission.

**Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than January 1, 2022, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters. The committee of the may submit legislation based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature.