

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

S.P. 628 - L.D. 1597

Resolve, to Establish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission

Sec. 1. Study commission established. Resolved: That the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission, referred to in this resolve as "the study commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Study commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the study commission consists of 10 members appointed as follows:

1. Two 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;
2. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. Two members who represent veterans' advocacy organizations, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;
4. One member who is a family member of a veteran who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, appointed by the President of the Senate;
5. One member with expertise processing veterans' claims for benefits related to harmful chemicals, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
6. Two members who served at Gagetown and were exposed to harmful chemicals during their service, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House.

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 study commission.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of study 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 study commission. 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 study commission to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the study commission shall study the impacts of exposure to harmful chemicals on veterans who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada.

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

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 6, 2023, the study commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.