



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 132

S.P. 68

In Senate, January 8, 2025

**Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Constitution of
Maine**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives:
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, HASENFUS of Readfield, LEE of Auburn.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the
2 Constitution of Maine, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

3 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
4 353, the commission consists of 12 voting members as follows:

5 1. Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
6 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

7 2. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
8 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
9 in the Legislature;

10 3. One constitutional law scholar with expertise in the history of the Constitution of
11 Maine or member of the Maine State Bar Association who has substantial practice
12 experience with legal issues related to the Constitution of Maine appointed by the President
13 of the Senate;

14 4. One member of a federally recognized Indian tribe in the State appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House;

16 5. One representative of the state chapter of a national civil liberties organization
17 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

18 6. The Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee.

19 The chairs of the commission shall invite the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial
20 Court to designate a member of the judicial branch to serve as a nonvoting member of the
21 commission in an advisory capacity.

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

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

33 **Sec. 5. Duties; meetings. Resolved:** That the commission may meet 12 times and
34 shall study and review the Constitution of Maine and recommend changes and amendments
35 as considered necessary and desirable.

36 Proposed changes and amendments for the commission to consider include, but are not
37 limited to, provisions for:

38 1. Strengthening Maine's Declaration of Rights, Article I of the Constitution of Maine;

39 2. Removing procedural minutiae from the Constitution of Maine that are better left
40 to statute;

41 3. Enabling the popular election of constitutional officers;

