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5/24/21

SPONSOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
REP. TEPLER

Changes from bill indicated in yellow highlight

**NEW TITLE: Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study Fair, Equitable and Competitive Tax Policy to Enable the Implementation of the State's 10-year Economic Development Plan**

**Whereas**, this resolve establishes the Commission To Study Fair, Equitable and Competitive Tax Policy for Maine's Working Families and Small Businesses, the duties of which are to determine the effects of current tax policy on working families and small businesses and on the State's 10-year economic development strategy and propose changes to make those policies adequate to meet the needs of the strategies and recommendations included in that plan, now, therefore, be it

**Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission To Study Fair, Equitable and Competitive Tax Policy for Maine's Working Families and Small Businesses, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

**Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 14 members appointed as follows:

1. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. Four members appointed by the Governor:
  - A. One member representing the Office of the Governor;
  - B. One member representing a statewide organization that represents the interests of municipalities;
  - C. One member representing a statewide organization that represents farming interests; and
  - D. One member who is a tax policy expert;
4. One public member representing the interests of small businesses and one public member representing the interests of working families, appointed by the President of the Senate; and
5. One public member representing the interests of small businesses and one public member representing the interests of working families, 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 commission.

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

**Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study issues associated with the effects of tax policy on the State's working families and small businesses and shall develop recommendations designed to ensure that the tax policy of the State is fair and equitable, is consistent with the State's 10-year economic development strategy, improves the competitive position of the State, encourages more investment in new and existing small businesses in the State and helps attract skilled and knowledgeable workers necessary for a sustainable, growing economy in all regions of the State. In examining the issues, the commission shall consider measures, consistent with the State's 10-year economic development strategy, designed to level the playing field for small businesses and to aid entrepreneurs and the importance to working families and businesses of adequately funding important government services, such as aid to local services, education, infrastructure maintenance and affordable health care, and propose measures that ensure these services are adequately funded. The commission shall examine whether the state's current revenue streams are adequate to support the strategies and recommendations identified in the State's 10-year economic development strategy and make suggestions for any changes that might better accomplish the State's goals. The commission shall also evaluate the direct impact of any proposed tax changes on after-tax income by income decile.

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

**Sec. 7. Provision of information to commission.** The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services shall provide to the commission information, consistent with the restrictions set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 191, that is requested by the commission.

**Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 4, 2024 January 15, 2023, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Second First Regular Session of the 130th 131st-Legislature. The committee may present legislation related to the report of the commission to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Include Appropriation for \$20,000 to either hire outside part-time staff or request outside data analysis

## SUMMARY

This amendment provides that the work of the Commission To Study Fair, Equitable and Competitive Tax Policy for Maine's Working Families and Small Businesses must conduct its review taking into

consideration the goals of the State's 10-year economic development strategy and changes the date for completion of its work from November 4, 2021 to January 15, 2023.