

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—  
H.P. 1322 - L.D. 1771

**Resolve, To Establish the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make  
Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing  
Technology for the Citizens of the State**

**Preamble.** **Whereas**, genome-editing technologies, such as clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, also known as CRISPR, CRISPR-associated protein 9, also known as Cas9, and gene drive, have been discovered and dramatically refined in recent years, enabling innumerable opportunities around the world to inexpensively edit the genetic code of any living thing; and

**Whereas**, many deadly human diseases could be eradicated with genome-editing technology, thereby saving countless lives, immeasurable heartache and large health care expenditures in perpetuity; and

**Whereas**, a genetic alteration in a species of marine, terrestrial or airborne animal, plant, fungus, protozoan, bacteria or virus could rapidly alter the natural beauty, ecology, security and economy of Maine; and

**Whereas**, Maine's higher education system and technology sector can further position themselves as leaders in innovation and ethical implementation, reaping enduring benefits for Maine citizens, through the use of these technologies; and

**Whereas**, there are significant ethical, social and legal considerations for genome editing in humans and other species; and

**Whereas**, in the past, scientific ideas have been used in the implementation of and to promote eugenics programs and other forms of oppression; and

**Whereas**, throughout history living organisms have been used as weapons, and genome-editing technologies create new security needs in the endless effort to protect the people of Maine and the United States; and

**Whereas**, genome editing has the potential to fundamentally improve or diminish our health, our natural environment, our social fabric and our economy; and

**Whereas**, the pace of innovation is accelerating and over the next several years Maine can capitalize on the changes in our world that genome editing can bring about or risk being left behind; now, therefore, be it

**Sec. 1. Panel established. Resolved:** That the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State, referred to in this resolve as "the panel," is established.

**Sec. 2. Panel membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the panel consists of 14 members who are residents of this State and appointed as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate from the party holding the largest number of seats in the Senate. In making the appointments pursuant to this subsection, the President of the Senate shall endeavor to appoint members having expertise in areas or backgrounds listed in section 6;

2. One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate from the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Senate. In making the appointment pursuant to this subsection, the President of the Senate shall endeavor to appoint a member having expertise in areas or backgrounds listed in section 6;

3. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House from the party holding the largest number of seats in the House. In making the appointments pursuant to this subsection, the Speaker of the House shall endeavor to appoint members having expertise in areas or backgrounds listed in section 6;

4. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House from the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the House. In making the appointment pursuant to this subsection, the Speaker of the House shall endeavor to appoint a member having expertise in an area or background listed in section 6;

5. One member who is a bioethicist, appointed by the President of the Senate;

6. One member who is a person under 30 years of age at the time of the appointment, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

7. One member who is from a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate;

8. One member who is a fiction author or poet whose published works have explored the humanity of all people, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

9. One member who is a person living with a single-gene disorder, such as cystic fibrosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy or sickle cell anemia, appointed by the President of the Senate;

10. One member having expertise in an area or a background listed in section 6, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

11. Two members having expertise in areas or backgrounds listed in section 6, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

The Presiding Officers shall invite the participation on the panel of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court or the chief justice's designee and the Governor or the Governor's designee.

**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 panel.

**Sec. 4. Vacancies. Resolved:** That Legislators may serve as members on the panel only while they are members of the Legislature. The Presiding Officers shall fill any vacancy according to the requirements of section 2, subsections 1, 2, 3 and 4.

**Sec. 5. Appointments; convening of panel. 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 panel. 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 panel to meet and conduct its business.

**Sec. 6. Duties. Resolved:** That the panel shall study the implications of genome-editing technology and the legislative, administrative or other steps that the State should take to capitalize on the potential and avoid the hazards of genome-editing technology. In performing its duties under this section, the panel shall solicit the testimony, advice or participation of persons having the following backgrounds or areas of expertise:

1. Ethics;
2. Clinical medicine caring for children;
3. Clinical medicine caring for adults;
4. Public health;
5. Bioscience research;
6. Environmental protection;
7. Forestry;
8. Agriculture or aquaculture;
9. Fishing;
10. State economics;
11. Tourism, business or commerce;
12. Military or security affairs;
13. University of Maine System or Maine Community College System;
14. Living with a single-gene disorder, such as cystic fibrosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy or sickle cell anemia, or a parent or guardian of a person living with such a single-gene disorder;
15. Hospital or hospice chaplaincy; and
16. History of race, ethnicity or eugenics.

**Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the panel, except that the Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

**Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 2, 2022, the panel shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

**Sec. 9. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the panel shall seek funding contributions to fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund the study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed.

**Sec. 10. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**LEGISLATURE**

**Study Commissions - Funding 0444**

Initiative: Allocates funds for the costs to the Legislature of the Advisory Panel To Better Understand and Make Recommendations Regarding the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,320
All Other	\$0	\$1,930
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	\$0	\$3,250