

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1990

Legislative Document

No. 1924

S.P. 734

In Senate, December 13, 1989

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 13, 1989. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and 1,600 ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President PRAY of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

Resolve, to Review the Department of Human Services .

(EMERGENCY)



2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

4
6 Whereas, the Department of Human Services, Bureau of
Rehabilitation has recently announced a deficit and the need to
drastically reduce services; and

8
10 Whereas, the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Elder
and Adult Services has announced a deficit and the existence of
long waiting lists for services; and

12
14 Whereas, the Department of Mental Health and Mental
Retardation has found it necessary to hire an outside consultant
to help it interpret and respond to the requirements established
16 by the Department of Human Services; and

18 Whereas, many Maine citizens have expressed concern
regarding their ability to easily access the resources and
20 programs of the Department of Human Services; and

22 Whereas, many Maine citizens have expressed concern
regarding the paper work, regulations, irregularity and
24 difficulty in receiving regular and understandable payment for
services from the Department of Human Services; and

26
28 Whereas, the Department of Human Services is one of the
largest branches of State Government which is also providing
services for Maine's vulnerable and impoverished citizens; and

30
32 Whereas, a review of the current management and organization
of the department is needed to reduce duplication, streamline
reporting requirements and improve the delivery of services to
34 Maine citizens; and

36 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
38 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
40 safety; now, therefore, be it

42 **Sec. 1. Independent review. Resolved:** That the Legislature be
authorized to hire an independent management firm to conduct a
44 complete review of the Department of Human Services to include:

46 1. An assessment of current programs and services
identifying any duplication of effort or inefficiencies in
48 management and administration;

50 2. A review of the current payment system and procedures
for contracted services, individuals, child support collections,

2 day care providers and others who rely on financial support from
the department and recommendations to streamline payment systems;

4 3. A review of the current service delivery system with
recommendations for the establishment of a centralized, single
6 entry, one-client-to-one-worker approach to service delivery;

8 4. A review of expenditures of the department and
recommendations for reducing administrative overhead;

10 5. An assessment of current management practices including
12 consideration of measures to reduce delays in service provision;

14 6. A review of the rules promulgated by the department with
the goals of reducing delays in the provision of services,
16 unnecessary regulatory requirements, confusion for citizens,
medical professionals and agencies, and administrative costs; and
18

20 7. Consideration of reducing the size of the department and
improving service delivery; and be it further

22 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the firm hired to conduct this
review submit a final report together with any necessary
24 implementing legislation to the First Regular Session of the
115th Legislature by April 15, 1991; and be it further
26

28 **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

30 1989-90

32 **LEGISLATURE**

34 **Independent Review - Funding**

36 All Other \$300,000

38 Provides funds for hiring an independent
review team to conduct a complete evaluation
40 of the Department of Human Services.

42 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.
44

46 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

48 This resolve provides funds for hiring an independent review
50 team to conduct a complete evaluation of the Department of Human
Services.