

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1990

Legislative Document

No. 2003

S.P. 776

In Senate, December 20, 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 20, 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 Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

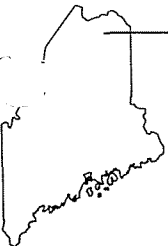
Cosponsored by Representative FOSS of Yarmouth and Senator HOLLOWAY of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

RESOLVE, to Support a Study on Gender Bias in the Maine Courts .

(EMERGENCY)



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

Whereas, the equal treatment of all persons is essential to
the sound administration of justice; and

Whereas, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court
desires to establish a task force to determine whether and to
what extent gender bias may exist within the state judicial
system; and

Whereas, if gender bias does exist, reform will be essential
to ensure that the system operates free of discrimination against
any person on account of gender; and

Whereas, the Legislature seeks to support a study on gender
bias in the Maine courts; and

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

Sec. 1. Study on gender bias. Resolved: That a study on the
potential existence and extent of gender bias in the judicial
system shall be carried out by a task force established by the
Supreme Judicial Court. At the conclusion of its mission, the
task force shall report to the Supreme Judicial Court and make
any necessary recommendations for judicial reform; and be it
further

Sec. 2. Personnel. Resolved: That the task force shall
commence its work within 30 days of the effective date of this
resolve and shall continue in existence for a period of 2 years.
It may employ an administrator and other staff who shall serve
with compensation and who shall be responsible to the task
force. Employees of the task force shall not be subject to the
personnel laws affecting state employees. The Administrative
Office of the Courts is authorized to furnish support services to
the task force upon its request; and be it further

Sec. 3. Acceptance of private donations. Resolved: That the task
force is authorized to receive funds from any source, private or
governmental, and to disburse the same for the purpose of
carrying out its functions; and be it further

Sec. 4. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are
appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
this resolve.

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JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

4

**Courts - Supreme, Superior,
District and Administrative**

6

8

All Other

\$151,750

10

Provides funds to carry out the purposes of this resolve. These funds shall not lapse, but shall carry forward until the purposes of the task force are achieved.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This resolve supports a study that will determine whether and to what extent gender bias exists in the state judicial system. The study, to be undertaken by a task force to be established by the Supreme Judicial Court, will promote fairness and impartiality in the administration of justice in our State.

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