

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1990

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Legislative Document

No. 2003

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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.

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STATE OF MAINE

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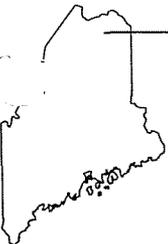
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

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

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(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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