

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 804

S.P. 235

In Senate, February 4, 1997

**Resolve, to Create the Juvenile Crime Task Force to Develop a
Continuum of Services for Juveniles.**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TREAT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Senators: JENKINS of Androscoggin, PENDLETON of Cumberland,
Representatives: COLWELL of Gardiner, JONES of Greenville, PEAVEY of Woolwich,
POVICH of Ellsworth, RICHARD of Madison.

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

4
6 **Whereas,** low-risk juvenile offenders are being sent to the
Maine Youth Center because alternative community-based programs
either do not exist or are at capacity; and

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10 **Whereas,** the lack of community-based services forces youths
who could otherwise be released to the community to spend
extended periods of time within the Maine Youth Center; and

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14 **Whereas,** most rural areas in Maine have no services
available for juvenile crime prevention, early intervention or
graduated sanctions; and

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18 **Whereas,** current efforts to aid and protect our at-risk
youth do not take responsibility for the needs of those youths;
and

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22 **Whereas,** public sentiment about juvenile delinquency
complicates the State's ability to serve our youth in community
programs; and

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26 **Whereas,** research clearly indicates that community-based
interventions are less costly than and at least as effective at
producing positive outcomes as institutionalization; and

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30 **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
32 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore, be it

34
36 **Sec. 1. Task force created. Resolved:** That because the needs
and problems of our youth can not be met or solved by any one
entity, the Juvenile Crime Task Force, referred to in this
38 resolve as the "task force," is created to evaluate the juvenile
correction system and to recommend methods for improving juvenile
40 justice services throughout the State; and be it further

42 **Sec. 2. Members. Resolved:** That the task force consists of
the following 13 people:

- 44 1. Five Legislators; and
- 46 2. One representative of each of the following groups:
- 48 A The Department of Corrections;

- 2 B. The Department of Education;
4 C. The Department of Human Services;
6 D. Rural law enforcement agencies;
8 E. Urban law enforcement agencies;
10 F. Community policing programs;
12 G. Community service providers; and
14 H. Alternative education teachers; and be it further

16 **Sec. 3. Appointment. Resolved:** That members are appointed
18 jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives, upon recommendation by both chairs of
22 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
24 jurisdiction over criminal justice matters. Appointments must be
made within 30 days of the effective date of this chapter. The
appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the
Legislative Council upon making the appointments; and be it
further

26 **Sec. 4. First meeting. Resolved:** That the chair of the
28 Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of
the task force within 30 days of the date the last member is
appointed; and be it further

30 **Sec. 5. Chair. Resolved:** That the task force shall elect a
32 chair from among its members; and be it further

34 **Sec. 6. Compensation. Resolved:** That Legislative members are
36 entitled to receive per diem compensation, as defined in Title 3,
section 2. All members are entitled to reimbursement for
38 expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. Application for
compensation and reimbursement must be made to the Executive
Director of the Legislative Council; and be it further

40 **Sec. 7. Staff. Resolved:** That the Executive Director of the
42 Legislative Council shall provide staff support to the task force
44 when the Legislature is not in session. State agencies
represented on the task force shall also provide assistance when
requested; and be it further

46 **Sec. 8. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall:

- 48 1. Assess the level and availability of existing
50 community-based juvenile corrections services within the State;

2 2. Analyze the research on:

4 A. Recent trends in juvenile justice in the State and
throughout the nation; and

6 B. Effective community-based juvenile corrections programs;

8 3. Identify an appropriate continuum of services for
juvenile offenders with specific attention to community-based
10 interventions;

12 4. Recommend appropriate steps to accomplish the preferred
system of community intervention and community-based services; and

14 5. Recommend a multiorganizational body to oversee the
16 implementation of the suggested improvements and to provide
ongoing evaluation of the juvenile justice system.

18 In its assessments and recommendations, the task force shall
20 consider the responsibilities of communities, schools, service
providers, other nonprofit organizations and state and local
22 government; and be it further

24 **Sec. 9. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit a
written report of its findings, together with any recommended
26 legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 118th
Legislature no later than February 1, 1998.

28 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

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34 **SUMMARY**

36 This resolve creates the Juvenile Crime Task Force to
evaluate the current state of community-based juvenile
38 corrections services and to recommend steps for implementing an
improved system focusing on community-based interventions.