

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 913

DATE: 5-8-97

(Filing No. H-410 )

MINORITY  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 660, L.D. 913, Bill, "An Act to Provide Funding for Mental Health Services for Homeless Shelters"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Change the Composition and Duties of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5042, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. K, §82 and affected by §83, is further amended to read:

1. **Membership.** The Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities consists of ~~21~~ 12 people appointed as follows:

A. The commissioners, a deputy commissioner or their designees an associate commissioner of each of the following departments:

- (1) The Department of Human Services;
- (2) The Department of Labor;
- (3) The Department of Corrections; and
- ~~(4) The Department of Education;~~

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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~~(5)---The---Department---of---Economic---and---Community  
Development;~~

(6) The Department of Mental Health, Mental  
Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; and

~~(7)---The---Department---of---Agriculture,---Food---and---Rural  
Resources;~~

B. The director or deputy director of:

- (1) The Maine State Housing Authority;

C. ~~Five~~ Three persons appointed jointly by the President of  
the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
as follows:

- (1) One member to represent a community action agency;
- (2) One member to represent a nonprofit agency  
providing shelter to the homeless; and

~~(3)---One---member---to---represent---a---nonprofit---housing  
development---corporation;~~

- (4) One member to represent municipalities; and

~~(5)---One---member---to---represent---low-income-people;---and~~

D. ~~Eight~~ Four persons appointed by the Governor, at  
least ~~4-3~~ of whom must be chosen from a list of nominations  
provided by a statewide coalition for the homeless to  
represent homeless and formerly homeless people and  
low-income tenants.

**Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5044**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 610, §19,  
is further amended to read:

**§5044. Duties**

The interagency task force shall advise the state authority  
with respect to the implementation of this chapter and the  
development of affordable housing. The task force shall:

- ~~1.---Assist---in---the---development---of---affordable-housing-plan.  
Assist---the---state---authority---with---the---development---of---the---affordable  
housing-plan-under-subchapter-I;~~

2 ~~2. Make recommendations. Make recommendations to the state~~  
3 ~~authority, the Governor and the Legislature with respect to~~  
4 ~~policies, programs and funding under this chapter;~~

6 ~~3. Review programs and policies. Review and examine the~~  
7 ~~plan, programs, policies and funding to determine their~~  
8 ~~effectiveness. The task force shall provide the findings of its~~  
9 ~~review to the persons and organizations set forth in subsection 2;~~

10 4. Serve as coordinator of information. Serve as a  
11 coordinator of information and communication among state agencies  
12 and among the state, municipal and private sectors with respect  
13 to this chapter; and

14 5. Assistance to homeless. In cooperation with the state  
15 authority, identify the resources available to the homeless and  
16 persons with special needs, identify the gaps in delivery  
17 services to this population and make recommendations concerning  
18 the policies and programs serving this population.

19 **Sec. 3. Study.** The Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and  
20 Housing Opportunities shall study and provide recommendations to  
21 the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 1997 on:

22 A. How best to provide affordable housing and homeless  
23 shelter services to those homeless persons with mental  
24 illness or substance abuse problems; and

25 B. The future role and responsibilities, if any, of the  
26 interagency task force.

27 The study must include an inventory of the current safety and  
28 health requirements, licenses and permits applicable to homeless  
29 shelters, including shelters for families, adolescents, adults  
30 and victims of domestic violence.'

31 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
32 summary the following:

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42 **FISCAL NOTE**

43 The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the  
44 Department of Economic and Community Development and the  
45 Department of Education may realize some minor administrative  
46 savings from the removal of these departments from the membership  
47 of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing  
48 Opportunities.'

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It reduces and strengthens the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and directs it to report to the Governor and Legislature on how best to provide affordable housing and homeless shelter services to persons with mental illness and to make recommendations on the future role and responsibilities of the task force. It also adds a fiscal note.