

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

DATE: 4-24-03

(Filing No. H-168)

M
R. O'S.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 538, L.D. 732, Bill, "An Act To Change Child-to-staff Ratios in Child Care Centers"

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

'Resolve, Directing the Department of Human Services To Establish an Advisory Task Force to Examine Staff-child Ratios and Maximum Group Size in Child Care Facilities'

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

'Sec. 1. Advisory task force established. Resolved: That the Department of Human Services shall establish an advisory task force to examine and make recommendations to the department regarding staff-child ratios and maximum group size in child care facilities; and be it further

Sec. 2. Advisory task force membership. Resolved: That the membership of the advisory task force must include, but is not limited to, stakeholders representing the following constituencies: parents of children in child care facilities; nonprofit child care centers; proprietary child care centers; child care centers serving school-age children; child care centers serving 50 or more children; child care centers serving fewer than 50 children; infant and toddler programs; Head Start programs; the Department of Human Services, Office of Child

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Care and Head Start; the Department of Human Services, Child Care Licensing Unit; higher education and training programs for child care providers; children with special needs; the Child Care Advisory Council; and Legislators. The Department of Human Services shall recruit task force members statewide. The task force shall make a substantial effort to solicit and consider input from any and all stakeholders; and be it further

H. of S.

Sec. 3. Recommendations and report. Resolved: That the advisory task force shall make recommendations to the Department of Human Services by December 1, 2003 regarding staff-child ratios and maximum group size in child care facilities. The department shall review the recommendations of the task force and report the results to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by February 1, 2004; and be it further

Sec. 4. Rules. Resolved: That the Department of Human Services shall retain in effect current rules for child care facilities regarding staff-child ratios and maximum group size until June 15, 2004. The department shall adopt rules on staff-child ratios and maximum group size effective June 15, 2004 after consideration of the recommendations of the advisory task force created in this resolve. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and makes it a resolve. The amendment directs the Department of Human Services to establish an advisory task force to examine staff-child ratios and maximum group size in child care facilities and make recommendations to the department. The amendment provides that current rules remain in effect until June 15, 2004 to allow for the task force to complete its work and the department to conduct additional rulemaking if necessary.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



**121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review**

LD 732

**Resolve. Directing the Department of Human Services to Establish an
Advisory Task Force to Examine Staff-Child Ratios and Maximum
Group Size in Child Care Facilities**

LR 1632(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional cost to the Department of Human Services in establishing an advisory task force, reviewing the recommendations of the task force, and reporting to the committee can be absorbed utilizing existing resources.