

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 13 FY 87/88
DATE June 2, 1988

AN ORDER

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S
SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the right, obligation, and opportunity to work is a cornerstone upon which Maine's pride, independence and social fabric is woven; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine is firmly and irrevocably committed to a policy of meaningful and gainful employment for all able and willing; and

WHEREAS, Maine's citizens with severe emotional and developmental disabilities are unemployed or underemployed in stark disproportion to other populations, resulting in an unacceptable waste of human potential; and

WHEREAS, there exists currently proven methods of training, adaptive technology, and placement expertise to enable citizens with severe emotional and developmental disabilities to become more valued members of our society and productively participate in all sectors of Maine's work force with significant savings in welfare and other state and federal subsidies; and

WHEREAS, Maine's economic future depends upon an additional skilled labor force matched with the needs of a changing business and industry environment; and

WHEREAS, Maine's public and private resources for training and successful vocational placement are either untapped or need additional assistance; and

WHEREAS, there now exists, in public and private sectors, both within our borders and nationwide, sufficient expertise and capability to fashion an unparalleled vocational investment opportunity for Maine's citizens with severe emotional and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, state government is now in a unique position to construct a crucible for leadership in promoting self-sufficiency and productivity of Maine's citizens with severe emotional and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, I, as Governor, have charged and directed appropriate state agencies with collaboration and engagement of public and private resources toward a concentrated initiative developing Maine's human resource potential;

Purpose

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. McKernan, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby create and establish the Governor's Task Force on Supported Employment.

The Task Force on Supported Employment shall with specific reference to citizens with severe emotional and developmental disabilities:

- Stimulate, facilitate, and coordinate state agency planning leading to increased employment options as an integral part of the Governor's Human Resource Development goals, plan, and implementation.
- Designate exemplary programs, technologies, and expertise in Maine and the nation which can be successfully adapted or replicated to Maine's environment and work force needs.
- Act as a catalyst to secure and focus those federal, state, private, and community resources best promoting and supporting increased vocational and employment opportunities.
- Specify barriers in current programs, regulations, statute, and financing impeding realization of full employment potential.
- Identify opportunities for action offering short- and long-term employment options that reduce inappropriate dependency on publicly funded programs and involve close collaboration of community service agencies, state government, and the business community.
- Present, to the Governor, a report by July 1, 1989.

Membership

The Governor's Task Force on Supported Employment shall consist of not more than 21 members. There shall be equal representation from state government and the business community. Representation shall also be drawn from an institution of advanced education and training, consumers of services, and providers of services.

Terms of Membership

Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Officers

The Governor shall appoint a chair to serve for the term described above.

Administration

The Departments of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Human Services, Labor, Educational and Cultural Services, and Economic Development shall provide staff assistance. All state agencies are hereby directed to provide any requested assistance and support.

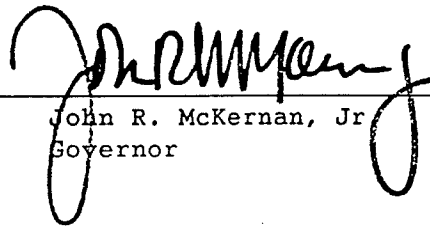
Meetings

The Task Force shall meet at the call of the Chair. At least seven days notice shall be given to members prior to each meeting.

Compensation

Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. Reimbursement of mileage and expenses incurred by members in the performance of their duties on the Task Force which are allowed by State law shall be borne by parent organizations. Expenses of members without such affiliations shall be borne by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

The effective date of this order is June 2, 1988.



John R. McKernan, Jr.
Governor