

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1013

H. P. 783

House of Representatives, March 10, 1977

On motion of Mr. Curran of South Portland, referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Establish a Permanent Governor's Committee on Children and Youth.

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

Whereas, the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth will expire on June 30, 1977; and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of Maine youth, their families and the general public that a permanent committee on children and youth be established; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1058 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1058

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
AND YOUTH**

§ 3901. Permanent Governor's Committee on Children and Youth

There shall be created, to take effect on the first day of August, 1977, a permanent Governor's Committee on Children and Youth consisting of 21 members appointed as follows: One member from the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate; one member from the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House; 4 youths under the age of 18 years,

appointed by the Governor; one professional person engaged in programs for young children, appointed by the Governor; and 14 representative citizens appointed by the Governor. Initial appointments shall be made prior to August 1, 1977, and subsequent appointments shall be made as necessary by those persons designated to make the appointments. The Governor shall designate the chairman.

§ 3902. Term of service

Appointments to the committee shall be for a term of 3 years, except that during the first fiscal year after enactment of this section, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the committee membership as designated by the Governor shall be appointed for 3 years; $\frac{1}{3}$ for 2 years; and $\frac{1}{3}$ for one year. Members shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms and retiring members shall serve until their successors are appointed, qualified and have taken office.

§ 3903. Duties of the committee

The Governor's Committee on Children and Youth shall:

1. Public information programs. Conduct continuing programs of public information to educate the public as to problems of children and youth, using such means, among others, as promotion of needed legislation and appropriations, and strengthening of public administration and personnel resources;
2. Assist and advise Governor and Executive Department. Assist and advise the Governor and members of the Executive Department in any matter relating to children and youth;
3. Testimony; lobbying. Provide a means for youth to express themselves and present their opinions to the Maine legislative body by any means, including testifying and lobbying on behalf of youths;
4. Coordination of government, private agencies and citizens. Assist and encourage governmental and private agencies and citizens groups to coordinate their efforts on behalf of children and youth and convene representatives of these agencies and groups to discuss, resolve or deal with issues of concern;
5. Research. Conduct programs of research as to the needs of children and youth in order to facilitate more comprehensive and better related social planning and action;
6. Cooperation with state departments and commissions. Cooperate with those state departments and commissions which are concerned with the needs of and services to children and youth by making the fullest possible use of the experience and resources of those departments;
7. Leadership and consultant service to area committees. Provide leadership and consultant service to area committees on children and youth in the development of area programs;
8. Service as child advocate. Serve as a child advocate for class of children in the State, who, because of his immaturity, legal disability, dependency, lack of parental support or lack of status in the community, needs a dedicated champion for the protection of his liberty or health when he is deprived of

his home, schooling, medical care, property, rights, entitlements or benefits or is subjected to involuntary treatment that may be detrimental to his general welfare;

9. Review of state and national issues. Review state and national issues pertaining to youth, monitor the treatment of these issues within the State, and give advice and recommendations to the Governor, legislators or any other public or private organization involved in these issues; and

10. Annual report. Furnish the Governor and the Legislature with an annual report on the committee's activities during the regular legislative session.

§ 3904. Director; secretary; clerical assistance

The committee may employ a full-time director at a salary not to exceed \$11,000 per year and a committee secretary for those portions of each year as may be necessary at a salary not to exceed \$3,000 per year. The committee may employ clerical assistance where justified and appoint and organize subcommittees as needed to carry out its duties.

§ 3905. Time of meetings; expenses

The committee shall meet at the place designated by and at the call of the chairman, not less than 5 times each calendar year. The members of the committee or authorized subcommittees shall be paid necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. These expenses shall be governed by the rules and regulations covering all state departments.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$40,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Governor's Committee on Children and Youth		
Personal Services	(2) \$14,000	(2) \$14,000
All Other	6,000	6,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$20,000	\$20,000

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall become effective August 1, 1977.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes a permanent Governor's Committee on Children and Youth to consist of 21 members representing youth, government, youth-related professions and the general citizenry. The committee would be responsible for coordinating programs dealing with youth and for acting as spokesman and advocate for Maine youth. It would also advise the Governor and other public and private organizations.