

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1706

H. P. 1467

House of Representatives, April 25, 1977

On Motion of Mr. Lynch of Livermore Falls, referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Provide a Comprehensive Review of Elementary and
Secondary Educational Services in the State.**

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

Whereas, education is the single most important human service offered to all Maine children; and

Whereas, in recent years serious questions have been raised about the purpose and direction of educational services as now provided; and

Whereas, periodic comprehensive reviews are necessary to ensure that educational services remain dynamic, responsive, relevant, humane and child-centered; and

Whereas, such a review has not been undertaken in recent years and the results of such a review are vitally necessary if the Legislature is to act responsibly in making educational policy; 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. Taskforce established. There is established a Taskforce on Educational Excellence in Maine.

Sec. 2. Membership. The taskforce shall be composed of the members of the State Board of Education.

Sec. 3. Agenda for the taskforce. The taskforce shall carry out a comprehensive review of elementary and secondary educational services as provided within the State. This review shall include, but not be limited to, specific consideration of the following:

1. **Governance.** An examination of the roles of state and local government in the formation and implementation of educational policy, including:

- A. An assessment of the leadership role of the State; and
- B. An evaluation of the need for strengthening local administrative units;

2. **Accountability.** A clarification of the concept and an examination of the existing methods of providing accountability, including:

- A. Written goals by local administrative units;
- B. An inventory of information on educational progress;
- C. Instruments for education management;
- D. The use of competency testing and other forms of testing; and
- E. The need for greater citizen participation in decision-making;

3. **Educational opportunity.** An assessment of the educational opportunities provided Maine children, including:

- A. The availability and quality of special, vocational and bilingual educational programs;
- B. The need to refine per pupil expenditures to more clearly reflect actual costs in schools of different sizes;
- C. The availability of high school diploma programs in adult education settings;
- D. The need for the encouragement of voucher systems and other alternatives to the traditional classroom; and
- E. The need for a compulsory education law;

4. **Curriculum.** An assessment of the quality of existing curricula, including:

- A. The need for the development of more individualized instruction;
- B. The value of early childhood education; and
- C. The status of the curriculum in vocational education in relation to changing societal demands; and

5. **Teaching.** An examination of the role of the teacher, including:

- A. The need for a revision of certification procedures;
- B. An assessment of existing teacher preparation; and
- C. The need for competency-based teacher education.

Sec. 4. Report. The taskforce is directed to report its findings along with any recommended legislation to the Legislature and the Governor no later than January 15, 1979.

Sec. 5. Procedures. The taskforce is authorized to retain staff, conduct surveys, establish county or other regional taskforces, hold public hearings and take other reasonable steps necessary to carry out its work.

Sec. 6. Compensation. The taskforce members shall receive \$25 per day and actual expenses in carrying out their duties.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to create a Taskforce on Educational Excellence in Maine, composed of members of the State Board of Education, which shall conduct a comprehensive review of the purpose and direction of public elementary and secondary education and make recommendations to the next Legislature as to the need for any changes in educational policy.