

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)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34

(EMERGENCY)

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2484

H.P. 1882

House of Representatives, August 31, 1984

Received by the Clerk of the House on August 31, 1984.

Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR

**RESOLVE, to Address Training and
Employment Opportunities for Handicapped
Persons Beyond School Age.**

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

Whereas, the State provides Maine's handicapped children with a free and appropriate education through age 20; and

Whereas, the State has, through enactments of this and previous Legislatures, enumerated and supported the rights of all handicapped citizens to training, habilitation and employment in the least restrictive environment consistent with their needs and potential; and

1 Whereas, several hundreds of handicapped citizens
2 are now exiting school systems across this State each
3 year; and

4 Whereas, these individuals have the potential for
5 more productive and independent adult lives, if af-
6 farded reasonable training opportunities; and

7 Whereas, the lack of training, employment and in-
8 dependent living opportunities for handicapped per-
9 sons leaving the education system will result in un-
10 necessary and expensive institutionalization,
11 welfare-dependence, wasted human potential, lost ca-
12 pacity for gainful employment and additional stress
13 to existing family and community support systems; and

14 Whereas, existing public and private resources
15 are not adequate to meet the needs and potential of
16 this population; and

17 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
18 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
19 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
20 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
21 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 **Select Committee; appointment. Resolved:** That
24 the Members of the 111th Legislature find that a co-
25 ordinated effort utilizing the resources and exper-
26 tise of both the public and private sectors is neces-
27 sary in addressing this problem to the benefit of all
28 citizens of Maine; and be it further

29 **Select Committee formed. Resolved:** That there
30 shall be formed a Select Committee comprised of the
31 following members:

32 1. The following members appointed by the Gover-
33 nor:

34 One representative of the Governor's Committee on Em-
35 ployment of the Handicapped; one representative of
36 the Maine Committee on Problems of the Mentally Re-
37 tardated, who shall be the parent of a handicapped per-
38 son; one representative of the Governor's Mental
39 Health Advisory Council, who shall not be a provider

1 of mental health services; one representative of the
2 State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities;
3 one representative of Sheltered Employment Association;
4 one representative of the Maine Association for
5 Directors of Services to Exceptional Children; one
6 representative of Community Adult Education Program;
7 one representative of the Maine Advisory Council on
8 Vocational Education; one representative from the Ad-
9 vocates for the Developmentally Disabled, one repre-
10 sentative from the Maine Job Training Council as es-
11 tablished under the Federal Job Training Partnership
12 Act; the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Re-
13 tardation, or his designee; the Commissioner of Edu-
14 cational and Cultural Services, or his designee; the
15 Commissioner of Human Services, or his designee; and
16 one member who shall serve as chairman and shall have
17 a demonstrated interest in employment and training
18 for handicapped citizens; and

19 2. The following additional members:

20 One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
21 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
22 one member of the Senate, appointed by the President
23 of the Senate; and be it further

24 **Report. Resolved:** That this Select Committee
25 shall prepare and present a report, including any
26 necessary legislation, to the Governor and to the
27 Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Fi-
28 nancial Affairs; Education; and Health and Institu-
29 tional Services, no later than December 1, 1984.
30 This report shall:

31 1. Document availability of training and educa-
32 tion for handicapped young adults no longer eligible
33 for public school programs due to having reached
34 their 20th birthday;

35 2. Evaluate the ability of existing
36 post-secondary education; employment and training
37 programs; and other community-based resources to meet
38 the needs of this population;

39 3. Identify innovative approaches, in Maine and
40 elsewhere, which address the training needs of this
41 population; and

1 individuals who have benefited from special education
2 programming.

3 The State has made a considerable financial and
4 philosophical commitment to meeting the need for a
5 free and appropriate education for its handicapped
6 children. This resolve seeks to sustain those gains
7 made by mentally handicapped individuals during their
8 school years by improving the ability of public and
9 private agencies to provide ongoing training and em-
10 ployment immediately after their school years have
11 been completed.

12

7245082984