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	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3 4	ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5 6	Legislative Document No. 569
7 8	S.P. 211 In Senate, February 14, 1985 Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.
9	JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
10	Presented by Senator Gill of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Senator Brown of Washington, Senator Clark of Cumberland and Senator Maybury of Penobscot.
12 13	STATE OF MAINE
14 15 16	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17 18 19	Resolve, to Address Special Education Needs of Learning Disabled Children.
20 21 22 23 24 25	Joint select committee; appointment. Resolved: That there exists a crisis in the provision of educational services for learning disabled children in Maine and that a coordinated review of current educational services for these children is necessary; and be it further
26 27 28 29	Joint Select Committee for Learning Disabled Children formed. Resolved: That there shall be formed a Joint Select Committee for Learning Disabled Children comprised of the following members:
30 31	1. The following members jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House:
32 33 34 35	One representative of the State Special Education Advisory Committee, one representative of the Developmental Disabilities Council, one representative of the Parents of Learning Disabled Children, one repre-

- 1 sentative of the Orten Dyslexia Society, one representative of the Maine Association for Children and 2 3 Adults with Learning Disabilities, one representative of the Association of Directors of Services for 4 ceptional Children, one representative of the Depart-5 6 ment of Educational and Cultural Services, one repre-7 sentative of the Maine Teachers Association, one repthe State Protection and Advocacy 8 resentative of 9 Agency, one representative of the University 10 Maine-Teacher Education Program and one representative of the Maine Parent Federation. 11
- 12 2. The following additional members: One member 13 of the House of Representatives, appointed by the 14 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and one mem-15 ber of the Senate, appointed by the President of the 16 Senate; and be it further

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28

36

37 38

39

- Report. Resolved: That this Joint Select Committee for Learning Disabled Children shall prepare and present a report, including any necessary legislation, to the Governor and the Joint Standing Committee on Education no later than January 1, 1986. This report shall:
- Document in-service and preservice training needs of regular and special education teachers dealing with learning disabled students, review current certification requirements and recommend additional training and certification requirements as may be necessary;
- 29 2. Review current identification and evaluation 30 requirements and local practices and make recommenda-31 tions for any needed revisions in regulations or cur-32 rent practices;
- 33 3. Review the ability of current placement al-34 ternatives to meet the needs of learning disabled 35 students;
 - 4. Develop recommendations for coordinated state-wide approach to the identification, evaluation and instruction of learning disabled students; and be it further

Public comment. Resolved: That the committee shall hold public hearings in northern, central and southern Maine in order to secure input from interested citizens; and be it further

Staff support. Resolved: That the Department of Educational and Cultural Services shall make available such staff support as may be necessary to assist the committee in completing its charge; and be it further

Appropriation. Resolved: That there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Joint Select Committee for Learning Disabled Children the sum of \$2,000 for fiscal year 1985-86 to carry out the pur-

-

poses of this resolve.

5

6 7

8

9

14

16

17

18

19 20

21

22

23

24 25

26

27

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

While significant advances have been made in the education of handicapped children, serious problems remain. The Omnibus Education Reform Act of 1984 took major steps towards improving education in Maine generally, yet it did not specifically address the needs of learning disabled students.

The combined efforts of parents and professionals through a joint select committee is necessary to objectively review current efforts to educate this group of handicapped children. A comprehensive report, resulting from this review, will make recommendations dealing with:

- 28 l. Identifaction and evaluation of learning dis-29 abled students;
- 30 2. The efficacy of current placement alterna-31 tives and certification requirements; and
- 32 3. The preparation and in-service training of teachers and related professionals.

34 1338012485