

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 963

7 S.P. 355

In Senate, March 8, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Human Resources and ordered printed.
9 Sent down for concurrence.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Gill of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Andrews of Cumberland, Representative Lisnik
of Presque Isle and Representative Taylor of Camden.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 **Resolve, Establishing the Maine Commission**
18 **on the Role of State Government in**
19 **Providing Independent Living**
20 **Opportunities and Services to**
21 **Disabled Persons.**
22

23 **Commission established. Resolved:** That there is
24 established the Maine Commission on the Role of State
25 Government in Providing Independent Living Opportuni-
26 ties and Services to Disabled Persons. The commis-
27 sion shall examine the entire range of services pro-
28 vided to disabled persons in this State, explore pos-
29 sible new opportunities to promote independent living
30 by disabled persons and, based upon its findings, es-
31 tablish priorities and recommendations for legisla-
32 tive action with particular attention to the follow-
33 ing areas:

34 1. How independent living opportunities for dis-
35 abled citizens can be expanded and enhanced at little
36 or no cost to taxpayers;

1 2. How financial resources currently available
2 to the State for providing services to disabled per-
3 sons may be redistributed so that programs which fos-
4 ter self-determination, independent living and eco-
5 nomic productivity can be maximized, as well as be-
6 come more flexible to meet changing individual needs;
7 and

8 3. How combined private and public sector
9 initiatives can stimulate economic development
10 through the creation of independent living opportuni-
11 ties that focus on removing financial disincentives
12 to disabled citizens in this State and thus reduce
13 long-term tax supported dependency; and be it further

14 **Members. Resolved:** That the commission shall
15 consist of 15 members, a majority of whom are to be
16 disabled persons. The Speaker of the House of Repre-
17 sentatives shall appoint one member of the House of
18 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall
19 appoint one member of the Senate; the Governor shall
20 appoint one person representing the Department of Hu-
21 man Services, one person representing the Department
22 of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and one per-
23 son representing the Department of Educational and
24 Cultural Services; the Speaker of the House and the
25 President of the Senate shall jointly appoint 10 dis-
26 abled persons who are broadly representative of the
27 State's disabled population with particular consider-
28 ation given to differing disabilities, ages and geog-
29 raphy. Eight of the 10 disabled appointees shall be
30 consumers of disability services, or representatives
31 of consumers' groups, rather than providers of those
32 services; and be it further

33 **Meetings, reports, staff and compensa-**
34 **tion. Resolved:** That the commission shall meet at
35 least 12 times as a committee of the whole and at
36 such other times in subcommittees as necessary. The
37 commission shall examine data from Maine and other
38 states, use consultants and recognized experts as
39 appropriate, conduct public hearings and prepare a
40 report which shall be distributed throughout the
41 State and submitted, together with any accompanying
42 legislation, to the First Regular Session of the
43 113th Legislature. The commission shall, at its
44 first meeting, elect one of its members to serve as

1 chairman. All members of the commission shall be ap-
2 pointed within 30 days of the effective date of this
3 resolve, with the first meeting of the commission to
4 take place within 45 days of the effective date.

5 The commission shall be provided with all neces-
6 sary independent staff assistance and receive infor-
7 mation about problems and services from all appropri-
8 ate offices of State Government.

9 Legislative members of the commission shall re-
10 ceive a per diem compensation and all members shall
11 receive compensation for travel and other necessary
12 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties;
13 and be it further

14 **Appropriation. Resolved:** That the sum of \$50,000
15 be appropriated from the General Fund to the Maine
16 Commission on the Role of State Government in Provid-
17 ing Independent Living Opportunities and Services to
18 Disabled Persons to carry out the purpose of this re-
19 solve.

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

21 This resolve establishes a commission, the major-
22 ity of whom will be disabled persons, appointed by
23 the Governor and the Legislature, to study indepen-
24 dent living opportunities and services to disabled
25 persons in Maine.

26 Over the last decade changes and advances in pub-
27 lic attitudes, demographics, federal laws, technolo-
28 gy, medical and rehabilitation services and improve-
29 ments in information availability have and will con-
30 tinue to significantly affect and enhance opportuni-
31 ties for Maine's disabled citizens. Independent liv-
32 ing is a theme that embraces such goals as
33 self-determination, self-help, deinstitutionalization
34 and barrier-free access to opportunities and services
35 previously unavailable or denied to persons with dis-
36 abilities. State Government can and should play a
37 significant role in seeking new ideas and in provid-
38 ing opportunities for disabled citizens to live as
39 independently as possible, in addition to acting as a

1 catalyst for private sector initiatives that do the
2 same.

3 It is anticipated that this statewide commission
4 will hold statewide hearings, review and evaluate ex-
5 isting programs and explore and develop new opportu-
6 nities in order to assure the fullest possible access
7 to society by Maine's disabled citizens.

8 The commission will prepare a comprehensive final
9 report which will be presented to the First Regular
10 Session of the 113th Legislature along with any rec-
11 ommendations it has.

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