

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 910

H.P. 677 House of Representatives, March 24, 1987
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.
Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative MELENDY of Rockland.
Cosponsored by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec,
Representatives TRACY of Rome and MANNING of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **Resolve, Reestablishing the Maine Commission**
2 **on the Role of State Government in**
3 **Providing Independent Living**
4 **Opportunities and Services to**
5 **Disabled Persons.**
6

7 **Commission established. Resolved:** That there is
8 established the Maine Commission on the Role of State
9 Government in Providing Independent Living Opportuni-
10 ties and Services to Disabled Persons. The commis-
11 sion shall examine the entire range of services pro-
12 vided to disabled persons in this State, explore pos-
13 sible new opportunities to promote independent living
14 by disabled persons and, based upon its findings, es-
15 tablish priorities and recommendations for legisla-
16 tive action with particular attention to the follow-
17 ing areas:

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

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

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

16 4. How the various roles of State Government,
17 private rehabilitation service agencies and client
18 advocacy groups can be defined, enhanced and modified
19 to provide the most appropriate service without du-
20 plication or conflict and to develop a true partner-
21 ship; and be it further

22 **Members. Resolved:** That the commission shall
23 consist of 15 members, a majority of whom are to be
24 disabled persons. The Speaker of the House shall ap-
25 point one member of the House of Representatives and
26 the President of the Senate shall appoint one member
27 of the Senate; the Governor shall appoint one person
28 representing the Department of Human Services, one
29 person representing the Department of Mental Health
30 and Mental Retardation and one person representing
31 the Department of Educational and Cultural Services;
32 the Speaker of the House and the President of the
33 Senate jointly shall appoint 10 disabled persons who
34 are broadly representative of the State's disabled
35 population with particular consideration given to
36 differing disabilities, ages and geography. Eight of
37 the 10 disabled appointees shall be consumers of dis-
38 ability services or representatives of consumers'
39 groups, rather than providers of those services; and
40 be it further

41 **Meetings, reports, staff and compensa-**
42 **tion. Resolved:** That the commission shall meet at

1 least 12 times as a committee of the whole and at
2 such other times in subcommittees as necessary. The
3 commission shall examine data from Maine and other
4 states, use consultants and recognized experts as ap-
5 propriate, conduct public hearings and prepare a re-
6 port which shall be distributed throughout the State
7 and submitted, together with any accompanying legis-
8 lation, to the Second Regular Session of the 113th
9 Legislature. The commission shall, at its first
10 meeting, elect one of its members to serve as chair-
11 man. All members of the commission shall be ap-
12 pointed within 30 days of the effective date of this
13 resolve, with the first meeting of the commission to
14 take place within 45 days of the effective date.

15 The commission shall be provided with all neces-
16 sary independent staff assistance and receive infor-
17 mation about problems and services from all appropri-
18 ate offices of State Government.

19 Legislative members of the commission shall re-
20 ceive a per diem compensation and all members shall
21 receive compensation for travel and other necessary
22 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties;
23 and be it further

24 **Appropriation. Resolved:** That the sum of \$9,800
25 be appropriated from the General Fund to the Legisla-
26 tive Account in fiscal year 1987 for the Maine Com-
27 mission on the Role of State Government in Providing
28 Independent Living Opportunities and Services to Dis-
29 abled Persons to carry out the purpose of this re-
30 solve.

31 STATEMENT OF FACT

32 This resolve reestablishes the Maine Commission
33 on the Role of State Government in Providing Indepen-
34 dent Living Opportunities and Services to Disabled
35 Persons as originally established in Resolve 1985,
36 chapter 44.

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