

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1020

H.P. 757 House of Representatives, March 30, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative O'GARA of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Senators BUSTIN of Kennebec and USHER of
Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, Relating to Workplace Substance
Abuse Education.

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3

4 **Workplace Substance Abuse Education Project.** Re-
5 solved: That there is established the Workplace Sub-
6 stance Abuse Education Project. The purpose of the
7 project is to provide education to management and la-
8 bor to assist them in developing ways to provide
9 healthier work environments by reducing the impact of
10 substance abuse problems by providing information
11 about the causes of substance abuse and ways to rec-
12 ognize the occurrence of substance abuse, the produc-
13 tivity problems resulting from substance abuse and
14 effective methods for confidential identification and
15 treatment; and be it further

16 **Steering committee.** Resolved: That the Steering
17 Committee for Workplace Substance Abuse Education is

1 established to define and assist in implementing this
2 project. The steering committee shall consist of the
3 following 20 members: Ten shall be appointed by the
4 Governor and 10 shall be appointed jointly by the
5 Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.
6 The appointments shall equally represent labor and
7 management from a variety of workplace environments
8 in heavy industry, light industry, government, insur-
9 ance and financial institutions.

10 The steering committee shall meet within 30 days
11 of appointment of the members, which shall be made
12 within 30 days of the effective date of this resolve.
13 The first responsibility of the committee shall be to
14 choose a chairman. After the chairman is selected,
15 the committee shall select the agency or organization
16 which shall provide the educational program and
17 training. The Department of Human Services shall as-
18 sist the committee in its work by providing staff as-
19 sistance and information; and be it further

20 **Compensation. Resolved:** That any Legislators
21 appointed to the committee shall be given the current
22 legislative per diem and necessary expenses for their
23 attendance at meetings of the group which occur on
24 days other than legislative days. Nonlegislative
25 members shall be compensated for actual expenses; and
26 be it further

27 **Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following
28 funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry
29 out the purposes of this resolve.

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
30		
31	<u>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPART-</u>	
32	<u>MENT OF</u>	
33	Alcohol and Drug Abuse	
34	Planning Committee	
35	All Other	\$75,000 \$75,000
36	Steering Committee for	
37	Workplace Substance	
38	Abuse Education	

1	Personal Services	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,400
2	All Other	5,600	5,600
3			
4	Total	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>

5 STATEMENT OF FACT

6 Maine working people have long recognized the
7 negative effects of alcohol and drug use in the
8 workplace and at home. Organized labor and manage-
9 ment have worked together in a number of industries
10 to develop fair, humane and comprehensive approaches
11 to assist workers who are in need of help. Wide-
12 spread implementation of a comprehensive approach has
13 been hampered by the lack of information, misinforma-
14 tion and the lack of a cooperative approach to the
15 problem.

16 It was estimated in 1982 that nearly \$400,000,000
17 in lost production resulted from alcohol abuse. It
18 is estimated that 10% of the workers in Maine, 50,000
19 people, have significant problems with drug or alco-
20 hol which affect their personal lives and work. Re-
21 search concerning substance abuse treatment in the
22 workplace shows that referral for treatment, in a
23 confidential and fair way, is an effective approach
24 in terms of humaneness and cost savings to the indus-
25 try.

26 In 1986, the Maine Labor Group on Health, Inc.,
27 in conjunction with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Plan-
28 ning Committee, surveyed 209 private sector unionized
29 workplaces in order to identify the alcohol and illegal
30 drug abuse use in the Maine workplace and obtain
31 an evaluation of existing workplace treatment and re-
32 ferral programs that address these problems. The
33 survey found that both management and labor reported
34 great variances in the extent of the substance abuse
35 problems in their workplaces. Evidence from the
36 responses shows that both management and labor had
37 difficulty identifying substance abuse, difficulty
38 understanding the impact of substance abuse on
39 workplace performance and lack of knowledge about ap-
40 proaches to assist workers.

1 This resolve provides for the establishment of an
2 education and training program for the workplace.
3 Both labor and management are represented on a com-
4 mittee to define and assist in the implementation of
5 the program.

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