

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
(New Draft of H.P. 677, L.D. 910)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1602

H.P. 1176 House of Representatives, May 15, 1987
Reported by Representative PINES from the Committee on
Human Resources and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill sponsored 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 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves
8 of the Legislature do not become effective until 90
9 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;
10 and

11 Whereas, this commission must be reestablished as
12 soon as possible to prevent any delay in completing
13 its report and to avoid the necessity of reappointing
14 the current members; and

1 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
2 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
3 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
4 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
5 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
6 therefore, be it

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:

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

21 2. How financial resources currently available
22 to the State for providing services to disabled per-
23 sons may be redistributed so that programs which fos-
24 ter self-determination, independent living and eco-
25 nomic productivity can be maximized, as well as be-
26 come more flexible to meet changing individual needs;

27 3. How combined private and public sector
28 initiatives can stimulate economic development
29 through the creation of independent living opportuni-
30 ties that focus on removing financial disincentives
31 to disabled citizens in this State and thus reduce
32 long-term tax-supported dependency; and

33 4. How the various roles of State Government,
34 private rehabilitation service agencies and client
35 advocacy groups can be defined, enhanced and modified
36 to provide the most appropriate service without du-
37 plication or conflict and to develop a true partner-
38 ship; and be it further

39 **Members. Resolved:** That the commission shall
40 consist of 15 members, a majority of whom are to be
41 disabled persons. The Speaker of the House shall ap-

1 point one member of the House of Representatives and
2 the President of the Senate shall appoint one member
3 of the Senate; the Governor shall appoint one person
4 representing the Department of Human Services, one
5 person representing the Department of Mental Health
6 and Mental Retardation and one person representing
7 the Department of Educational and Cultural Services;
8 the Speaker of the House and the President of the
9 Senate jointly shall appoint 10 disabled persons who
10 are broadly representative of the State's disabled
11 population with particular consideration given to
12 differing disabilities, ages and geography. Eight of
13 the 10 disabled appointees shall be consumers of dis-
14 ability services or representatives of consumers'
15 groups, rather than providers of those services. All
16 members of the commission shall be appointed within
17 30 days of the effective date of this resolve. Each
18 person required to make an appointment or appoint-
19 ments under this resolve shall inform the President
20 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Execu-
21 tive Director of the Legislative Council and the Gov-
22 ernor upon making the appointment or appointments;
23 and be it further

24 **Meetings, reports. Resolved:** That the commission
25 shall meet as a committee or as subcommittees as
26 necessary to complete the work of the commission.
27 When the appointment of all commission members is
28 complete, the chairman of the Legislative Council
29 shall convene the first meeting within 45 days of the
30 effective date of this resolve. At its first meet-
31 ing, the commission shall select a chairman from
32 among its members. The commission shall examine data
33 from Maine and other states, use consultants and rec-
34 ognized experts as appropriate, conduct public hear-
35 ings and prepare a report which shall be distributed
36 throughout the State and submitted, together with any
37 accompanying legislation, to the Second Regular Ses-
38 sion of the 113th Legislature by January 6, 1988; and
39 be it further

40 **Assistance. Resolved:** That, if staff assistance
41 is desired, assistance shall be requested from the
42 Legislative Council; and be it further

43 **Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
44 commission who are Legislators shall receive the leg-

