

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
(New Draft of H.P. 736, L.D. 987)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1754

H.P. 1281 House of Representatives, June 8, 1987  
Reported by Representative BOST from the Committee on  
Education and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill submitted by the Joint Select Committee on  
Economic Development pursuant to Resolves 1985, chapters 45  
and 53.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of  
2 Educational and Cultural Services to  
3 Develop a Plan to Improve the State's  
4 Adult Education Program to More  
5 Adequately Address the Problems of  
6 Illiteracy and High School  
7 Completion.  
8

9 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves  
10 of the Legislature do not become effective until 90  
11 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;  
12 and

13 Whereas, the Joint Select Committee on Economic  
14 Development has found that the State and the Depart-  
15 ment of Educational and Cultural Services have not

1 adequately addressed the problems of illiteracy and  
2 high school completion in the State; and

3 Whereas, there are 238,000 adults in the State  
4 lacking a high school diploma and one in 5 Maine  
5 adults is functionally illiterate; and

6 Whereas, basic educational skills will become  
7 even more important as the nature of employment  
8 changes with the changes in the economy demanding  
9 more flexibility and adaptability within the work  
10 force; and

11 Whereas, the State's financial support for adult  
12 education programs and the present subsidy formula is  
13 inadequate to address the basic education needs of  
14 Maine's adults; and

15 Whereas, employers in the State are becoming in-  
16 creasingly frustrated by an inability to locate and  
17 attract employees with adequate education and train-  
18 ing, hindering economic growth; and

19 Whereas, the Joint Select Committee would like to  
20 see a plan developed to address the needs of the  
21 adult community prior to adjournment of the Second  
22 Regular Session of the 113th Legislature; and

23 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,  
24 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of  
25 the Constitution of Maine and require the following  
26 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-  
27 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
28 therefore, be it

29 **Report of the Commissioner of Educational and**  
30 **Cultural Services. Resolved:** That the Commissioner  
31 of Educational and Cultural Services shall review  
32 adult education programs and services provided in  
33 this State. The commissioner shall report the find-  
34 ings and recommendations for action on ways to in-  
35 crease the level of adult education programs and ser-  
36 vices to citizens of this State to the Joint Standing  
37 Committee on Education and the Joint Standing Commit-  
38 tee on Economic Development prior to February 1,  
39 1988. Those recommendations shall include develop-  
40 ment of an Adult Education Plan to address the recom-



3. Address other related issues, including providing dependent care services and for the transportation needs of adult education students; and be it further

Pilot projects. Resolved: That the report of the commissioner may include the recommendation that various parts of the Adult Education Plan be tested during the 1987-88 school year through pilot projects. Detailed specifications for the establishment, conduct and evaluation of and reporting on any pilot projects shall be included in that recommendation; and be it further

**Resources.** Resolved: That the commissioner shall utilize all appropriate resources available within the department and shall coordinate his efforts with other state departments or agencies, other public and private organizations and interested citizens.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

## FISCAL NOTE

The bill imposes some minor additional costs to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services in order to develop the plan. These costs should be absorbed within the existing budgeted resources of the department. Legislation submitted to implement the commissioner's plan could require some significant additional requests for appropriations as soon as fiscal year 1988-89.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this new draft is to clarify the  
3 thrust of the resolve. The new draft makes it clear  
4 that serious consideration needs to be given to the  
5 adult education issues identified by the Joint Select  
6 Committee on Economic Development and requires the  
7 Department of Educational and Cultural Services to  
8 submit an adult education plan to the Joint Standing  
9 Committee on Economic Development and the Joint  
10 Standing Committee on Education by February 1, 1988.  
11 The new draft gives the department some flexibility  
12 in the approach which the plan must take.

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