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

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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

Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services to Develop a Plan to Improve the State's Adult Education Program to More Adequately Address the Problems of Illiteracy and High School Completion.

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

Whereas, the Joint Select Committee on Economic Development has found that the State and the Department of Educational and Cultural Services have not

1 adequately addressed the problems of illiteracy and 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 Whereas, the State's financial support for adult 11 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 plan developed to address the needs of the 21 adult community prior to adjournment of the 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 the Constitution of Maine and require the following 25 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-26 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 adult education programs and services provided in 32

33 this State. The commissioner shall report the find-34 ings and recommendations for action on ways 35 crease the level of adult education programs and services 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, 1988. Those recommendations shall include develop-39 40 ment of an Adult Education Plan to address the recom-

	1 2 3 4 5 6	mendations of the Joint Select Committee on Economic Development concerning adult education. The recommendations shall also include necessary implementing legislation and an analysis of the appropriate financial and staff support necessary to implement the plan; and be it further
)	7 8 9	Guidelines for plan. Resolved: That the Adult Education Plan shall, at a minimum, make recommendations which will:
	10 11 12 13 14 15	1. Make available universal adult basic education programs and services to all citizens of this State who need them. This may be achieved by direct provision of services by school administrative units, by contracting with other units or agencies or by other appropriate means;
	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	2. Increase the level of state support for adult education programs and services to address difficulties school administrative units have in providing those services. The objective of this part of the plan is to meet the adult education needs of the citizens of the State without significantly burdening school units. The commissioner may present alternative approaches for consideration by the committees. Among the approaches which the commissioner shall consider for implementation are the related specific recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Economic Development which will require:
	28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35	A. Providing all adults access to free public education through grade 12; B. Subsidizing 75% of the first-year cost to local school units in initiating new and expanded programs for basic literacy and high school completion and allow state participation in the first year to be counted 100% toward the local school units subsidy claim for future years;
	36 37 38	C. Funding the state subsidy for adult basic education in sufficient amount to match all local effort; and
Ì	39 40 41	D. Funding 100% of the costs of textbooks required for basic literacy and high school completion courses; RATEGILG AND

1 Address other related issues, including providing dependent care services and for the transportation needs of adult education students; and be it 2 3 further

Pilot projects. Resolved: That the report of the commissioner may include the recommendation 6 7 various parts of the Adult Education Plan be tested 8. during the 1987-88 school during the 1987-88 school year through pilot projects. Detailed specifications for the establishyear through 9 10 ment, conduct and evaluation of and reporting on any 11 pilot projects shall be included in that recommenda-

13 Resources. Resolved: That the commissioner 14 shall utilize all appropriate resources available 15 within the department and shall coordinate his ef-16 forts with other state departments or agencies, other 17 public and private organizations and interested citi-18 zens.

tion; and be it further

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Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when 19 20 21 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 24 25 26 absorbed within the existing budgeted resources of 27 the department. Legislation submitted to implement the commissioner's plan could require some signifi-28 29 additional requests for appropriations as soon 30 as fiscal year 1988-89.

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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