

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 22

S.P. 49

In Senate, January 26, 1989

Reported by Senator ANDREWS from the Committee to study Maine's Participation of International Trade and Effect of International Trade on Maine's Economy. Approved by the Legislative Council, April 17, 1988.

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 19.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, to Provide for the Evaluation of State International Trade Programs with Respect to Effectiveness and the Ability to Address International Economic Forces .



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Preamble. Whereas, the evaluation of state programs and activities in the area of economic development is extremely difficult; and

Whereas, most states admit that evaluation of economic development programs is weak and that pertinent evaluation criteria need to be developed to provide meaningful evaluations; and

Whereas, comprehensive, objective and pertinent evaluation is extremely important to the formulation of effective economic development programs; and

Whereas, a number of new economic development programs, particularly in the area of international trade, are being developed; and

Whereas, it may be necessary to experiment with different approaches to develop the most effective programs; and

Whereas, evaluation of both the programs and the economic forces which the programs are designed to address is essential to the formulation of effective programs; now, therefore, be it

Evaluation criteria and procedure. Resolved: That the Chancellor of the University of Maine System, in consultation with private higher educational institutions in the State, shall develop evaluation criteria or programs and the procedures for the application of these criteria to economic development programs and activities implemented or supported by the State or independent state agencies; and be it further

Review evaluation standards and application of other organizations. Resolved: That the formulation of evaluation criteria required by this resolve shall include an analysis of evaluation standards that the National Association of State Development Agencies, the National Council of State Legislatures and other similar organizations may have developed or contracted with other associations to develop; and be it further

Report. Resolved: That the chancellor report the findings and recommendations, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This resolve is the product of a study conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development with respect to the impact of international trade on the State. In its study, the committee surveyed 15 states in regard to the roles of the states in economic development. In its survey, the

1 committee found that evaluation of state programs designed to
3 promote economic development, including international trade, is
5 very weak. Nearly all states admit to this problem. It is
7 extremely difficult to develop criteria that provides good data
and an accurate measure of effectiveness of state economic
development programs.

9 This resolve provides that Maine's public and private higher
11 educational institutions work together and develop objective
13 evaluation criteria and procedures. The purpose of this resolve
15 is to develop an effective evaluation tool for determining the
effectiveness of economic development programs. Effective
evaluation is necessary if Maine is to make the maximum use of
limited resources to produce the maximum impact in economic
development including international trade.