

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 38

H.P. 38

House of Representatives, January 30, 1989

Reported by Representative HANDY for the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and Education pursuant to Resolve 1987, chapter 110.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Education suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

*Ed Pert*

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

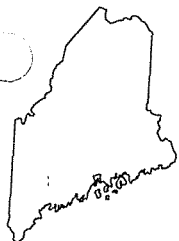
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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

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**Resolve, Creating the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the  
Establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Children within State  
Government.**

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**Preamble.** Whereas, it has been documented that the childhood years play a critical role in determining the academic, social, physical, emotional and economic well-being of individuals; and

Whereas, programs to encourage the normal development of children and to provide necessary educational, social and correctional services are dispersed in several departments, agencies, bureaus, offices and commissions of State Government; and

Whereas, this dispersal may result in gaps and duplication in services and confusion among members of the public as to where to go for assistance and who has responsibility for administering various programs; and

Whereas, this situation results in inefficiency and confusion; now, therefore, be it

**Commission created and charged. Resolved:** That there is created the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Children within State Government. The commission shall thoroughly review the delegation of authority regarding services for children and their families by various agencies of State Government and the actual provision of those services. The commission shall evaluate the effectiveness of programs as currently provided, the efficiency with which services are provided within the current structure and the degree of public confusion caused by the current structure. As part of its evaluation, the commission shall hold 4 public meetings at various locations around the State; and be it further

**Appointment. Resolved:** That the commission shall consist of 17 members appointed by the Governor as follows: 4 Legislators representing the Joint Standing Committees on Education, Human Resources, State and Local Government and Appropriations and Financial Affairs; one representative of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services; one representative of the Department of Human Services; one school administrator; one classroom teacher; one school guidance counselor; one member of the State Board of Education; 2 representatives of higher education with expertise in child development, one from the University of Maine System and one from a private institution of higher education within the State; and 5 public members with expertise in child development which may include parenting. One of the public members shall be a representative of the Maine Aspirations Compact, and one shall be a social worker with expertise in family dysfunction issues. The appointments shall be made within 30 days of the effective date of this resolve; and be it further

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**Convening of commission; election of chair. Resolved:** That the Governor shall call the first meeting of the commission within 30 days of the appointment of all commission members. At that meeting, the commission shall select a chair from among the legislative and public members; and be it further

**Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall present its findings, together with any recommended legislation, to the Governor at the First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature no later than January 15, 1991; and be it further

**Assistance. Resolved:** That the commission may contract for those professional services necessary to complete its tasks. Staff assistance shall be provided by the departments and the Governor's office; and be it further

**Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the commission who are Legislators shall receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for each day's attendance at commission meetings. All members of the commission, except the employees of State Government, shall receive reimbursement for expenses upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council; and be it further

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

**1989-90**                      **1990-91**

**LEGISLATURE**

**Blue Ribbon Commission to Study  
the Establishment of a Cabinet-  
level Department of Children  
within State Government**

Personal Services	\$ 880	\$1,320
All Other	3,000	7,600
TOTAL	<u>\$3,880</u>	<u>\$8,920</u>

Provides funds for per diem, meeting and related expenses of the commission. No funds are provided for contractual services.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

This resolve is part of the legislative recommendations of

1 the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and  
Education established by Resolve 1987, chapter 110.

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5 The resolve establishes the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study  
the Establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Children  
7 within State Government appointed by the Governor to study the  
programs and services for children provided by various state  
9 agencies and to evaluate the effectiveness with which those  
programs and services are provided. This commission is to make  
11 recommendations by January 15, 1991, on whether a new department  
of children should be established within State Government which  
13 would combine and coordinate the separate services and programs  
currently provided by several departments.