

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1034

S.P. 389

In Senate, April 4, 1989

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Representative HIGGINS of Scarborough and Representative SMALL of Bath.

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, to Establish a Blue Ribbon Task Force to Promote Equity of Opportunity for Women in the Public School System .

(EMERGENCY)



1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Resolves of the Legislature do
2 not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless
3 enacted as emergencies; and

5 Whereas, recent studies and statistics show a critical
6 concern regarding the supply and demand of Maine's school
7 superintendents and principals; and

9 Whereas, there are a significant number of women holding
10 principals' certificates and a correspondingly low number of
11 women holding principal or superintendent positions; and

13 Whereas, if students are to have high aspirations and to be
14 unfettered by stereotypes, appropriate role models are necessary;
15 and

17 Whereas, education has a special responsibility to ensure
18 equity of opportunity; and

19 Whereas, focused public discussion of this problem is long
20 overdue; and

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

29 **Task force established; membership. Resolved:** That there is
30 created a Blue Ribbon Task Force to Promote Equity of Opportunity
31 for Women in the Public School System. The task force shall
32 consist of 19 members to include representation of 2 Senators
33 appointed by the President of the Senate; 2 members of the House
34 of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
35 one Legislator to be appointed jointly by the President of the
36 Senate and the Speaker of the House who shall serve as the task
37 force chair; 2 members of the Joint Standing Committee on
38 Education to be appointed by the chairs of that committee; 2
39 members to be appointed by the Governor; one representative of
40 the Maine School Superintendents Association to be appointed by
41 that association; one representative of the Maine School Boards
42 Association to be appointed by that association; one
43 representative of the Maine Teachers Association to be appointed
44 by that association; one representative of the Maine Federation
45 of Teachers to be appointed by that federation; one
46 representative of the Maine Secondary School Principals'
47 Association to be appointed by that association; one
48 representative of the Maine Elementary Principals' Association to
49 be appointed by that association; one member of the Maine Human
50 Rights Commission to be appointed by the chair of that
51 commission; one representative of the Department of Educational
and Cultural Services to be appointed

1 by the commissioner of that department; one representative of the
3 Maine Commission for Women to be appointed by the chair of that
5 commission; and one representative of the Maine Women's Lobby to
be appointed by that organization; and be it further

7 **Staff; compensation; study. Resolved:** That the task force shall
9 study the representation and underrepresentation of women in the
11 public education system, review practices and the cause of those
13 practices that present barriers to women achieving administrative
15 positions and recommend measures calculated to correct any
17 inequities found. The task force may conduct hearings, develop
surveys or utilize any other forum to gather data and make
recommendations. Task force members shall receive legislative
per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,
section 2, for days in attendance at commission meetings. All
members shall receive reimbursement for expenses upon application
to the Legislative Committee; and be it further

19 **Convening of task force. Resolved:** That, when the appointment
21 of all task force members is completed, the cochair shall call
23 the task force together for its first meeting no later than 30
25 days after the effective date of this resolve. The task force
shall meet at least 6 times, and more frequently if necessary, to
respond to the duties of this task force; and be it further

27 **Report. Resolved:** That a report outlining the findings and
29 recommendations of the task force shall be submitted to the
Governor and to the Joint Standing Committee on Education no
later than March 15, 1990; and be it further

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

35 1989-90

37 **BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE TO PROMOTE**
39 **EQUITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN**
THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

41 All Other \$50,000

43 Provides funds for expenses for task force
45 members, meetings, public hearings and the
interim and final reports.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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Women make up over 65% of the teachers in Maine. One out of every 4 persons holding principals' certificates is female, yet women are vastly underrepresented in principals' positions and other administrative positions in the public education system. Public discussion is relevant. A blue ribbon task force is needed to hold hearings, take relevant testimony and deliberate the facts before making meaningful recommendations. This resolve establishes such a task force with the requirement of reporting for the Second Regular Session of the 114th Legislature. Appropriations are included which will cover per diems and expenses and enable the task force to hire project staff.

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