

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1564

S.P. 561

In Senate, May 9, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs 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 BOST of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Senator ESTES of York, Representative CROWLEY of Stockton Springs and Representative NORTON of Winthrop.

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, Creating the Special Commission to Study and Evaluate the Status of
Education Reform in Maine .

(EMERGENCY)



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

5 Whereas, recently enacted education reform in Maine has
resulted in the implementation of numerous educational
7 improvement measures affecting nearly every student and citizen
in the State; and

9 Whereas, the objective of education reform is to improve the
11 quality of education received by students in the public schools
of this State; and

13 Whereas, state and local taxpayers have contributed hundreds
15 of millions of dollars toward the implementation of these reform
measures and the original reform measures contained no
17 accountability provisions establishing a coordinated and
comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of those reform
19 measures; and

21 Whereas, additional future education reform measures are
currently being developed and proposed for implementation without
23 adequate evaluation of current existing efforts; and

25 Whereas, there is a pressing and urgent need for an
accountability review and assessment of the effectiveness of
27 on-going educational improvement efforts in order for state and
local policy makers to make informed decisions on whether to
29 continue, redirect, expand or terminate current programs and to
develop the best method of implementing additional reform
31 programs; and

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

39 **Sec. 1. Commission created and charged. Resolved:** That there is
created the Special Commission to Study and Evaluate the Status
41 of Education Reform in Maine. The special commission shall
conduct a thorough assessment of the various elements of
43 education reform instituted since 1984, including the following.

45 1. The special commission shall review the recommendations
in the report of the Commission on the Status of Education in
47 Maine and other relevant national and state reports and compare
the educational policy areas identified as needing improvement
49 with the education reform measures instituted in Maine since 1984.

51 2. The commission shall examine the intent, substance and
method of implementation of:

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- A. The teacher certification law, Public Law 1983, chapter 845;
- B. The education reform law, Public Law 1983, chapter 859;
- C. The administrator certification law, Public Law 1985, chapter 287;
- D. The minimum teacher salary law, Public Law 1985, chapter 505; and
- E. Other legislative and administrative reform measures put into effect since 1984.

3. The special commission shall develop an accountability system for evaluating the effectiveness of education reform to date, including the method of implementation by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and the State Board of Education.

4. The special commission shall use the methodology developed to assess:

- A. The changes resulting from education reform measures on the formation of educational policy at the state and local level;
- B. The content of educational programming;
- C. Educational outcomes, including appropriate measures of outcome;
- D. The coordination and effectiveness of preservice training programs and professional development opportunities for educators;
- E. The current status of educator certification requirements;
- F. The availability and morale of educators;
- G. The impact on raising student and family aspirations;
- H. The impact on local school districts; and
- I. Changes in school funding.

5. The special commission shall examine the need for and appropriate method of instituting a system of ongoing review and assessment of current and future education reform efforts.

1 6. In conducting the study authorized by this resolve, the
special commission shall:

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4 A. Hold 5 public hearings across the State to assess public
5 opinion on the status of education reform. The special
6 commission shall schedule the public hearings at a
7 convenient time and place, advertise the public hearings
8 widely and, in cooperation with the University of Maine
9 System, utilize the Interactive Television System whenever
10 possible to achieve the broadest possible participation in
11 the public hearings;

12 B. Conduct a survey of recent high school graduates to
13 assess student opinions of education reform, including the
14 effect of education reform on student opportunities,
15 aspirations, attendance and drop-out rates; and

16 C. Encourage the development of position papers on various
17 education reform issues by agencies, organizations and
18 individuals interested in education reform; and be it further
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20 **Sec. 2. Appointment. Resolved:** That the Commission shall
21 consist of 18 members, appointed in the following manner:
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23 1. Four Legislators who are members of the Joint Standing
24 Committee on Education, appointed jointly by the President of the
25 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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27 2. Two representatives of the Department of Educational and
28 Cultural Services appointed by the Commissioner of Educational
29 and Cultural Services, one of whom shall be an educational
30 specialist or consultant below the associate commissioner level
31 specializing in certification issues and one of whom shall be an
32 educational specialist or consultant below the associate
33 commissioner level specializing in curriculum issues;
34

35 3. One representative each of the State Board of Education
36 and the University of Maine System appointed jointly by the
37 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
38 Representatives;
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40 4. One elementary school teacher and one secondary school
41 teacher, one school board member, one school superintendent, one
42 secondary school principal and one elementary school principal
43 appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker
44 of the House of Representatives;
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46 5. One representative of the business community appointed
47 jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
48 House of Representatives; and
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1 6. Three public members appointed jointly by the President
of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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5 All members shall possess experience, expertise or interest
in education and educational reform issues. All appointments
shall be made by July 15, 1989; and be it further

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9 **Sec. 3. Convening of commission. Resolved:** That when the
appointment of all commission members is completed and not later
than July 31, 1989, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall
11 convene the first meeting of the special commission. At the
first meeting, the special commission shall select a chair from
13 among its members.

15 Under the direction of the chair, the special commission may
17 divide into subcommittees for the purposes of considering various
education reform issues more effectively; and be it further

19 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That the commission, shall present
its findings, together with any recommended legislation, in an
21 interim report to the Second Regular Session of the 114th
Legislature by December 1, 1989. The interim report shall
23 include, but need not be limited to, a review and assessment of
the educator certification requirements, an examination of the
25 educator training programs available to Maine educators and
potential educators and recommendations or legislation necessary
27 to enhance the coordination of educator certification
requirements and available educator training programs.

29 The final report of the special commission, together with
31 any recommended legislation shall be presented by December 1,
1990. The final report, in addition to assessing past
33 educational reform measures and recommending what ought to be
retained, changed or eliminated, shall establish a process for
35 the assessment of future reform measures; and be it further

37 **Sec. 5. Assistance. Resolved:** That the special commission may
hire consultants or researchers to assist in performing its
39 duties. With the approval of the Legislative Council, the
special commission may apply for grants or technical assistance
41 from public or private organizations. The Department of
Educational and Cultural Services shall provide information
43 requested by the special commission. In conducting surveys and
policy research, the special commission may request assistance
45 from the University of Maine System. If additional staff
assistance is desired, assistance may be requested from the
47 Legislative Council; and be it further

49 **Sec. 6. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
commission who are Legislators shall receive the legislative per
51 diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section
2, for each day's attendance at commission meetings. Upon

1 application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council,
3 all members of the commission who are not state employees shall
5 receive reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the Maine
7 Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 379; and be it further

9 **Sec. 7. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
11 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
13 this resolve.

	1989-90	1990-91
11 LEGISLATURE		
13 Special Commission to Study and		
15 Evaluate the Status of Education		
17 Reform in Maine		

17 Personal Services	\$1,320	\$2,860
19 All Other	26,200	33,600

21 Provides funds for per diem,
23 meeting and related expenses
25 of the special commission.
27 Also provides \$20,000 in each
29 year to allow the special
31 commission to contract with
consultants or researchers.
Any unexpended funds
appropriated for fiscal year
1989-90 shall carry forward
to June 30, 1991.

31 LEGISLATURE		
33 TOTAL	<u>\$27,520</u>	<u>\$36,460</u>

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

39 STATEMENT OF FACT

41 It has been 5 years since the initial components of
43 educational reform were enacted in Maine. Reform measures
45 covered a wide range of education programs and services.
47 However, the reform measures instituted to date have contained
49 very few provisions for a critical review and assessment of the
effectiveness of those measures. In the meantime, additional
reform measures are being devised and proposed without adequately
assessing those that came before.

51 The purpose of this resolve is to create a special
commission to conduct a thorough and balanced review of education

1 reform efforts to date in Maine and to make recommendations on
2 how well they are working, how they can be improved and how their
3 effectiveness can continue to be monitored in the future. The
4 work of the special commission would also set the stage for
5 establishing accountability measures for any proposed future
6 reform efforts.

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