

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1671

H.P. 1146

House of Representatives, April 24, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield.

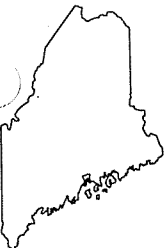
Cosponsored by Representative SIMONDS of Cape Elizabeth and Representative POULIN of Oakland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

**Resolve, to Provide for the Study of Fraud and Overcompensation
Involving Recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and
Food Stamps Assistance.**

(EMERGENCY)



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

4
6 Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day
period expires, in order that the study can be completed and a
report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative
8 session; and

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

16 **Sec. 1. Committee established. Resolved:** That the Committee to
Study the Potential for Fraud and Overcompensation Involving
18 Recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Food
Stamps Assistance is established; and be it further

20 **Sec. 2. Committee membership. Resolved:** That the committee
22 consists of the members of the Joint Standing Committee on Human
Resources; and be it further

24 **Sec. 3. First meeting; chair. Resolved:** That the chair of the
26 Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of
the committee within 2 weeks following the adjournment of the
28 First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature. The committee
shall select a chair from among its members; and be it further

30 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the committee shall conduct a
32 study of the potential for fraud and overcompensation involving
recipients of aid to families with dependent children and food
34 stamps assistance. In conducting the study the committee shall
examine the following issues:

36 1. The extent of fraud and overcompensation in the food
stamp assistance and aid to families with dependent children
38 programs;

40 2. The factors, if any, responsible for fraud and
42 overcompensation in these programs;

44 3. The means by which fraud and overcompensation in these
programs can be significantly reduced or eliminated, to include
46 any structural, procedural and policy changes necessary to
achieve this goal;

48 4. Whether any other related programs of assistance to
50 low-income citizens should be investigated to determine the level
of fraud and overcompensation in these programs; and

2 5. Whether an office similar to the federal Office of
4 Inspector General would be a more effective and more efficient
6 means to prevent fraud and overcompensation in State Government
8 programs in comparison to the current structure, procedures and
policies used to combat fraud and overcompensation in social
service and welfare programs; and be it further

10 **Sec. 5. Powers. Resolved:** That in examining the issues in
section 4 of this resolve, the committee may:

12 1. Meet at convenient times and locations within Augusta;

14 2. Hold informational sessions for discussions with
16 knowledgeable persons;

18 3. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a
literature search;

20 4. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of
22 the public or affected persons and groups;

24 5. Procure and analyze relevant data;

26 6. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal
questions within the scope of the study; and

28 7. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or
30 governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions related
to issues within the scope of the study; and be it further

32 **Sec. 6. Assistance. Resolved:** That the Department of Human
34 Services, the Attorney General and other agencies of State
Government shall cooperate with the committee in providing
36 information and assistance to the committee as expeditiously as
possible; and be it further

38 **Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the committee may
40 request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council; and be
it further

42 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the committee shall submit its
44 report, together with any necessary implementing legislation to
the Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature no later than
46 November 1, 1991; and be it further

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

2

1991-92

4

LEGISLATURE

6

Legislature

8

Personal Services

\$3,575

All Other

\$3,625

10

12

14

16

18

20

Provides funding for the per diem, meeting expenses and printing cost of a study by the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources of the potential for fraud and overcompensation involving recipients of aid to families with dependent children and food stamps assistance.

22

LEGISLATURE

TOTAL

\$7,200

24

26

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

28

STATEMENT OF FACT

30

32

34

This resolve establishes the Committee to Study the Potential for Fraud and Overcompensation Involving Recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Food Stamps Assistance.