

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1763

H.P. 1207

House of Representatives, May 1, 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 KILKELLY of Wiscasset.

Cosponsored by Representative GOODRIDGE of Pittsfield, Senator CONLEY of Cumberland and Representative PARADIS of Frenchville.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Provide Improved Services for People with Autism.



Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§61-A** is enacted to read:

4				
6	<u>61-A.</u>	<u>Maine Committee</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>34-B MRSA</u>
	<u>Mental Health</u>	<u>on Autism</u>	<u>Only</u>	<u>§1217</u>
	<u>and Mental</u>		<u>Including</u>	
8	<u>Retardation</u>		<u>Specialized</u>	
			<u>Expenses</u>	

10 **Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §1217** is enacted to read:

12 §1217. Maine Committee on Autism

14 1. Committee established and charged. In order to aid in

16 the effective delivery of services to people with autism and

18 their families, increase the independence and productivity of

20 people with autism and encourage their integration into the

22 community, the Maine Committee on Autism, as established in Title

24 5, section 12004-I, subsection 61-A, is authorized to serve in an

advisory capacity to the commissioner, the Director of the Bureau of

Children with Special Needs and the Director of the Bureau of

Mental Retardation.

26 2. Committee membership. The committee consists of the

following 17 members:

28 A. One Senator appointed by the President of the Senate;

30 B. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by

the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

32 C. Fifteen members appointed by the commissioner, including

34 at least:

36 (1) One member representing the Department of Human

Services;

38 (2) One member representing the Department of

40 Education;

42 (3) One member representing the State Planning and

Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities;

44 (4) One member representing the Department of Labor;

46 and

48 (5) Two members representing providers of services to

people with autism and their families.

50 Of the 15 members appointed by the commissioner, 9 must be

52 family members of people with autism.

2 3. Terms of appointment. Committee members shall serve a
3-year term except that of the 15 members initially appointed by
4 the commissioner, 5 must be appointed for 3 years, 5 for 2 years
5 and 5 for one year. Any vacancy must be filled by an appointment
6 for the remainder of the term. Members may not be appointed to
7 the committee for more than 3 terms.

8
9 4. Chair. The commissioner shall appoint a chair from
10 among the committee members.

11 5. Consult; advise. The committee shall consult with and
12 advise the commissioner, the Director of the Bureau of Children
13 with Special Needs and the Director of the Bureau of Mental
14 Retardation with respect to determining the appropriateness of
15 services designed to increase the independence and productivity
16 of people with autism and aid in their integration into society.

17 6. Development of statewide plan. The committee shall
18 develop and annually revise a statewide plan for the delivery of
19 services to people with autism and their families. The plan and
20 the annual revisions must be submitted to the commissioner in
21 sufficient time for the commissioner's review prior to the
22 submission of the department's budget request to the Governor.

23
24
25 In preparing the statewide plan and the annual revisions of the
26 plan, the committee shall review the availability and
27 accessibility of and evaluate the need for the following services
28 to people with autism and their families:

- 29 A. Dental and medical care;
30
31 B. Respite care;
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33 C. Recreation and leisure activities;
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35 D. Transportation services;
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37 E. Personal assistance services;
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39 F. Home health services;
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41 G. Home and vehicle modifications;
42
43 H. Family counseling services;
44
45 I. Communication services;
46
47 J. Crisis intervention services;
48
49
50

2 K. Integrated child care services;

4 L. Specialized diagnostic and evaluation services;

6 M. Specialized nutrition and clothing services;

8 N. Family education and training services;

10 O. Service coordination;

12 P. Information services;

14 Q. Assistive technology;

16 R. Permanency planning; and

18 S. Special education.

20 7. Committee compensation. Members of the committee serve
22 without compensation but are entitled to expenses. For purposes
24 of this subsection, "expenses" means expenses as defined in Title
26 5, section 12002 as well as expenses incurred in connection with
28 child care, respite care, personal assistance and specialized
30 transportation services.

STATEMENT OF FACT

32 This bill establishes the Maine Committee on Autism to serve
34 in an advisory capacity to the Department of Mental Health and
 Mental Retardation in order to plan for the more effective
 delivery of services to people with autism and their families,
 increase the independence and productivity of people with autism
 and aid their integration into the community.