

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

Legislative Document

No. 2339

H.P. 1662

House of Representatives, February 13, 1992

Submitted by the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring pursuant to Public Law 1991 chapter 139.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, to Reorganize Health, Social and Developmental Services.

(EMERGENCY)



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

Whereas, the Legislature finds that health, social and
developmental services should be reorganized for maximum
efficiency and effectiveness; and

Whereas, the transition process for reorganization should
begin immediately; and

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

Sec. 1. Reorganization of health, social and developmental services.

Resolved: That it is the intent of the Legislature that by July
1, 1993, the Department of Human Services, the Department of
Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Office of Substance
Abuse and the Office of Community Services be abolished and the
functions of those agencies transferred to a newly created
Department of Children and Families, a newly created Department
of Health and Developmental Services and to other existing state
agencies as specified in this resolve; and be it further

Sec. 2. Commission established. Resolved:

That the Commission
on the Reorganization of Health, Social and Developmental
Services is established and consists of 7 members of the
Legislature, including 2 members of the Senate appointed by the
President of the Senate and 5 members of the House of
Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
Representatives as follows:

1. One member of the House of Representatives who is a
member of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs;

2. One member of the House of Representatives who is a
member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education;

3. One member of the Senate and one member of the House of
Representatives who are members of the Joint Standing Committee
on Human Resources;

4. One member of the House of Representatives who is a
member of the Joint Select Committee on Corrections; and

2 5. One member of the Senate and one member of the House of
Representatives who are members of the Joint Standing Committee
on State and Local Government.

4
6 All members must be appointed by June 1, 1992. The
committee is abolished on December 1, 1992; and be it further

8 **Sec. 3. Commission charged. Resolved:** That the Commission on
the Reorganization of Health, Social and Developmental Services
10 shall develop, with the advice and assistance of officials of the
executive branch, all legislation needed to implement the
12 reorganization of services in accordance with this resolve,
including amendments to the statutes, reallocation of funds and
14 transitional language as needed. The legislation must be
presented to the Legislature by November 1, 1992 for
16 consideration during the First Regular Session of the 116th
Legislature; and be it further

18 **Sec. 4. Content of legislation. Resolved:** That the legislation
20 prepared by the Commission on the Reorganization of Health,
Social and Developmental Services must provide for at least the
22 following:

24 1. Abolition of the Department of Human Services, the
Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Office of
26 Substance Abuse and the Office of Community Services;

28 2. Creation of a Department of Children and Families with
at least the following functional clusters: economic security;
30 child protection and foster care; and family support and
development;

32 3. Creation of a Department of Health and Developmental
34 Services with at least the following functional clusters: public
health; medical care finance; substance abuse; mental health;
36 developmental services and physical disability; and aging;

38 4. Creation of a universal information and referral system
for all health, social and educational services;

40 5. A single case management system within each of the new
42 departments;

44 6. A single contracting, evaluation and licensing system
within each of the new departments;

46 7. Transfer of Office of Community Services programs as
48 follows:

2 A. Services for people who are homeless or at risk of
becoming homeless, including the Low Income Heating and
4 Energy Assistance program, to the Maine State Housing
Authority;

6 B. Head Start to the Department of Children and Families;

8 C. Community Services Block Grant to the Department of
Children and Families; and

10 D. Children's Trust Fund to the Department of Children and
12 Families; and

14 8. Consolidation of all services for people who are
homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in the Maine State
16 Housing Authority, including programs currently provided by the
Department of Economic and Community Development;

18 9. Transfer of Bureau of Rehabilitation services related to
20 people with hearing or sight impairments to the Department of
Health and Developmental Services and transfer of Bureau of
22 Rehabilitation services related to job training and placement to
the Department of Labor;

24 10. Authorization for the Department of Children and
26 Families and the Department of Health and Developmental Services
to share resources such as but not limited to regional office
28 space, data management services and payroll services; and

30 11. Any changes in juvenile correctional services that the
committee recommends after considering the report of the
32 Interdepartmental Council's task force on juvenile corrections;
and be it further

34 **Sec. 5. Juvenile corrections task force. Resolved:** That by June 1,
36 1992 the Interdepartmental Council shall convene a task force to
determine whether juvenile correctional services should remain
38 part of the Department of Corrections or should be moved to the
Department of Children and Families, recommend strategies to
40 improve services for consumers of juvenile correctional services
and increase the eligibility of juvenile correctional clients for
42 3rd-party payment of services. The task force must include
representatives from the executive and legislative branches and
44 must report its findings to the Commission on the Reorganization
of Health, Social and Developmental Services by September 1,
46 1992. Juvenile correctional services include juvenile detention,
probation and parole, the Maine Youth Center and community-based
48 juvenile programs; and be it further

