

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document .

No. 1401

H.P. 1049

House of Representatives, May 3, 1993

**Resolve, to Create the Healthy Start Task Force.**

**(EMERGENCY)**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Representative TREAT of Gardiner, Senator PARADIS of Aroostook and  
Representatives: BRUNO of Raymond, MICHAUD of East Millinocket, POULIOT of  
Lewiston, TOWNSEND of Portland, Senator: CAREY of Kennebec.

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 number of reported child abuse and neglect  
cases has increased in the State over the past several years,  
while the capacity of the Department of Human Services to respond  
to referrals has not increased; and

Whereas, the Healthy Start program has been proven in pilot  
states to be an effective and cost-effective measure for  
prevention of child abuse and neglect; and

Whereas, there are a number of programs similar to Healthy  
Start that have been adopted in other states that are now  
providing valid data; and

Whereas, there may be federal funding available for  
prevention programs like Healthy Start in the near future; and

Whereas, it is essential to complete the foundation research  
and development necessary to quickly bring this effective  
prevention program into existence in this State, and quickly  
bring the plan to the Legislature so that an effective program  
can be implemented at the earliest possible time; 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. Task force created and charged. Resolved:** That there is  
created the Healthy Start Task Force, referred to in this resolve  
as the "task force," which is directed to formulate a plan for  
implementation of a model Healthy Start home visitation program.  
The task force shall produce a detailed implementation plan for  
presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources  
by November 1, 1993. The task force plan and report must contain  
findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing  
legislation; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Contents of plan and report. Resolved:** That the task  
force shall consider recommendations contained in the report by  
the Department of Human Services' oversight committee and Healthy  
Start programs operating in other states and shall identify  
optimal use of existing state resources in formulating its plan.  
The task force is directed, as part of its investigation of  
existing resources, to inventory state and local entities  
presently providing elements of Healthy Start-type services to  
families and shall evaluate how these resources could be included  
in a state Healthy Start implementation plan. The

2 implementation plan must include a budget that identifies the  
3 allocation of new funds separately from funds redirected from  
4 other state departments or divisions. The plan must include  
5 projected long-term cost savings as well as budget projections  
6 for 3 years from the date of implementation; and be it further

8 **Sec. 3. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force  
9 consists of 14 members as follows:

- 10 1. The Governor or the Governor's designee;
- 12 2. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
- 14 3. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's  
15 designee;
- 16 4. The Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
17 or the director's designee;
- 20 5. One Senator appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 22 6. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
23 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 24 7. One public member who was a victim of abuse or neglect  
25 as a child, appointed by the Governor;
- 26 8. One public member who is a parent who formerly abused or  
27 neglected one or more of that member's children and who has  
28 received treatment or advice from an organization that provides  
29 child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention services,  
30 appointed by the Governor; and
- 31 9. Six public members appointed on the basis of expertise,  
32 experience and interest in the prevention of child abuse and  
33 neglect or expertise and experience in intervention in cases of  
34 child abuse and neglect. Of these 6 public members, 2 members  
35 must be appointed by the President of the Senate, 2 members must  
36 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one  
37 member must be appointed by the Senate Chair of the Joint  
38 Standing Committee on Human Resources and one member must be  
39 appointed by the House Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on  
40 Human Resources; and be it further

44 **Sec. 4. Appointment; notification. Resolved:** That all  
45 appointments to the task force must be made no later than 30 days  
46 following the effective date of this resolve. The Executive  
47 Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by all  
48 appointing authorities once selections have been made; and be it  
49 further  
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2           **Sec. 5. Convening of task force; selection of chair. Resolved:** That  
when appointment of all task force members is complete, the  
4 chairs of the Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of  
the task force no later than 15 days following the completion of  
6 appointments. The task force shall select a member as its chair;  
and be it further

8           **Sec. 6. Assistance. Resolved:** That the task force shall  
request staff assistance from the Legislative Council and the  
10 Department of Human Services. The Department of Human Services  
shall provide office space and administrative support, including  
12 technical assistance, to the task force; and be it further

14           **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the public members of  
the task force are entitled to reimbursement for expenses upon  
16 application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council;  
and be it further

18           **Sec. 8. Grants. Resolved:** That the task force may accept  
20 grants and in-kind assistance to assist in funding the work of  
the task force. Any such assistance accepted must be included in  
22 the final report of the task force; and be it further

24           **Sec. 9. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit  
its report, along with any necessary implementing legislation, to  
26 the Second Regular Session of the 116th Legislature no later than  
November 1, 1993; and be it further

28           **Sec. 10. Termination of task force. Resolved:** That the task  
30 force ends upon the submission of the task force plan and report;  
and be it further

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

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1993-94

LEGISLATURE

Healthy Start Task Force

All Other \$2,900

Provides for the appropriation of funds to  
the Healthy Start Task Force for the  
expenses of public members and for  
miscellaneous task force expenses.

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

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#### STATEMENT OF FACT

8           This resolve creates the Healthy Start Task Force, which is  
directed to formulate a plan for implementation of a model  
10 Healthy Start home visitation program.