

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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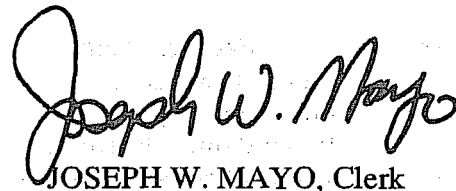
H.P. 1102

House of Representatives, May 11, 1993

**Resolve, to Establish the Labor and Welfare Transition Team to
Facilitate the Inclusion within the Department of Labor of Certain
Welfare Functions of the Department of Human Services.**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative AIKMAN of Poland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Representatives: BENNETT of Norway, CARR of Sanford, LIBBY of Buxton,
Senator: HARRIMAN of Cumberland.

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,** Maine has been undergoing difficult economic times
and will continue to face difficult economic times; and

8 **Whereas,** Maine State Government must reflect the changes and
restructuring that is occurring in the business community by
10 centralizing fragmented services in a way that does not adversely
affect the provision of services; and

12
14 **Whereas,** the State of Maine can no longer financially or
philosophically invest in its current system, which perpetuates
single-issue designs that lack comprehensive provider mechanisms;
16 and

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

24 **Sec. 1. Restructuring of Department of Labor. Resolved:** That the
Department of Labor be restructured in accordance with the plan
26 required in section 2 and that a bureau whose function will
include job service and job training be established within the
28 Department of Labor consisting of the following programs: Aid to
Families with Dependent Children, general assistance and
30 emergency assistance, food stamps, the Additional Support for
People in Retraining and Education program, and the Vocational
32 Rehabilitation Services Unit; and be it further

34 **Sec. 2. Labor and Welfare Transition Team; creation. Resolved:**
That the Labor and Welfare Transition Team is established to
36 develop a plan of combining the programs of Aid to Families with
Dependent Children, general assistance and emergency assistance,
38 food stamps, the Additional Support for People in Retraining and
Education program, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Services
40 Unit with the jobs service and jobs training programs of the
Department of Labor into one administrative bureau. The team
42 shall develop recommendations for programmatic and structural
changes concerning the restructuring of departments to provide a
44 flexible, efficient system of providing welfare and job training
services that is responsive to clients, offers choices in
46 nonstandard services and gives users and providers results
through performance and positive outcomes that are accessible and
48 affordable; and be it further

2 **Sec. 3. Development of plan. Resolved:** That the team shall
develop a plan for creating a system of providing welfare and job
training services that includes the following:

4 1. A streamlined management of organization and
6 administration;

8 2. A structure that is designed to address, when
appropriate, the issues of families and children, and welfare and
10 unemployment as single units;

12 3. The elimination of duplication of services and
administrative, management and information systems;

14 4. The provision of regional and outreach service to
16 maximize ease of access and comprehensive service potential;

18 5. The enhancement of the environment of the organization
through retraining to reduce categorical thinking and expand
20 creative problem solving;

22 6. The combination of like services to build capacity for
such programs as employment and training and welfare-to-work
24 programs; and

26 7. The reduction of image and stigma associations of
recipients of any of these services; and be it further

28 **Sec. 4. Guiding principle; goals. Resolved:** That in developing
30 the plan required in section 2, the team must be guided by the
principle that administrative structures can be reduced by
32 integrating welfare and rehabilitation with education and
training for the future work force. In developing the plan, the
34 team shall strive to effectuate the following goals:

36 1. Increasing efficiency and effectiveness;

38 2. Focusing on jobs, rehabilitation and improvement of
quality of life;

40 3. Expand opportunity for persons with disabilities;

42 4. Matching entitlement programs with job search and
44 training functions; and

46 5. Increasing speed of processing services without reducing
quality; and be it further

48 **Sec. 5. Composition of the Labor and Welfare Transition Team;
50 chair. Resolved:** That the team consists of the following members:

2 1. Two Legislators serving on the Joint Standing Committee
4 on Labor, one appointed by the chairs of that committee and one
appointed by the first-named member of the minority party on that
committee;

6 2. Two Legislators serving on the Joint Standing Committee
8 on Human Resources, one appointed by the chairs of that committee
and one appointed by the first-named member of the minority party
on that committee;

10 3. Two representatives from the Department of Labor,
12 appointed by the Commissioner of Labor;

14 4. Two representatives from the Department of Human
16 Services, appointed by the Commissioner of Human Services;

18 5. One member from a constituency or advocacy group
concerned with welfare and job training issues, appointed by the
Governor;

20 6. One representative of providers of welfare services and
22 job training services appointed by the Governor;

24 7. One representative from the Executive Department,
26 appointed by the Governor;

28 8. One member representing the public, appointed by the
Governor, to service as the chair of the team; and

30 9. The appointments must be made no later than June 1,
32 1993; and be it further

34 **Sec. 6. Duties of the team. Resolved:** That the duties of the
team are as follows:

36 1. In addition to the principles outlined in section 3, the
38 team shall develop a common core of principles to apply in
creating this restructuring proposal;

40 2. The team shall consult the business community, private
42 industry councils, the advisory council appointed pursuant to the
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1082, subsection 5,
44 representatives of recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent
Children and consumer advocates;

46 3. The team shall hold regional meetings and hearings to
gather technical information and consider public policy issues;
48 and

2 4. The team shall present its plan and any necessary
4 implementing legislation to the Governor prior to the Second
6 Regular Session of the 116th Legislature for the Governor's
8 approval in sufficient time for the Governor's presentation of
10 the plan and legislation to the Legislature on or before January
12 15, 1994. The plan must address specific organizational
14 structures, elimination of staff positions, reduction in funds
16 and the legal and policy changes that are necessitated by the
18 restructuring; and be it further

20 **Sec. 7. Implementation of restructuring plan. Resolved:** That the
22 effective date for final implementation of the restructuring
24 proposed in accordance with this resolve is July 1, 1994.

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

30 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

32 The purpose of this bill is to develop a user friendly,
cost-effective network for programmatic and structural changes
that would effectively enhance performance and positive outcomes
in the areas of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, general
and energy assistance, food stamps, Additional Support for People
in Retraining and Education program, Vocational Rehabilitation
Services Unit, job placement and employment and training. This
bill requires that the Department of Labor be restructured to
accommodate these programs under its umbrella. This bill
establishes the Labor and Welfare Transition Team and directs the
team to develop a plan to implement the restructuring.