

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 6/7/95

(Filing No. H- 398 )

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
117TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1054, L.D. 1483, "Resolve, to Create Educational Options for Exceptional Children"

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

**Sec. 1. Creation of options and opportunities for exceptional children; implementing legislation. Resolved:** That the Department of Education, within its existing available resources, shall prepare a report and propose implementing legislation to ensure educational options and opportunities for exceptional children. The department shall solicit information from and work in cooperation with:

- 1. Parents of children with and without special needs, including, but not limited to, learning disabilities;
- 2. Special education directors;
- 3. Representatives of support groups for parents of children with special needs;
- 4. Current or former school superintendents;
- 5. Representatives of associations that advocate for children with learning disabilities;
- 6. Special education consultants;
- 7. Hearing officers;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

RWS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1054, L.D. 1483

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8. Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs;

9. Higher education educators;

10. Health care providers;

11. Physicians, psychologists and clinicians; and

12. Any other interested parties; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Contents of report and implementing legislation. Resolved:** That in the report and proposed implementing legislation required in section 1 of this resolve, the Department of Education shall:

1. Address the different levels of services available to exceptional children at different public schools throughout the State and propose methods of equalizing access to educational services and improving learning results for students with special needs;

2. Review the policies and procedures related to special education due process, including all issues related to the transfer of exceptional students from one public school to another public school;

3. Study and develop strategies to ensure that schools and teachers are prepared to identify children with learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder and attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity; and

4. Review the educational needs of students with learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder and attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity and explore educational programs designed to meet those needs.

The Department of Education shall ensure that the report and proposed implementing legislation do not provide incentives to schools to neglect their obligations to provide appropriate education to exceptional children; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall submit its report, along with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 117th Legislature no later than December 15, 1995.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

**FISCAL NOTE**

The Division of Special Services within the Department of Education will incur some minor additional costs to report and provide implementing legislation related to educational services for exceptional children. These costs can be absorbed within the division's existing budgeted resources.'

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The resolve requires the Department of Education, in consultation with various interested parties, to propose methods to ensure educational opportunities and equalize access to educational services for exceptional children.

This amendment directs the Department of Education to include in its report recommendations concerning special education due process, strategies for identifying students with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders, and programs to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. The amendment also adds a fiscal note.