

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1437

DATE: April 29, 1997

(Filing No. S- 159)

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reported by: Senator MacKinnon

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 465, L.D. 1437, "Resolve, to Establish Regional Service Centers"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Study the State's Regional Service Center Communities'

Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Whereas, the State's approximately 85 service center communities account for 75% of the State's jobs, 84% of its taxable retail sales and a majority of its social services; and

Whereas, these service center communities as a whole have been experiencing a long-term decline in population, a deterioration of infrastructure, a significantly higher-than-average property tax burden and a growing percentage of dependent populations; and

Whereas, the Legislature finds that these service center communities not only are essential to the economic health of the State but also can play important roles in the efficient delivery of municipal and regional services; now, therefore, be it

FLWS

2 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force on
Regional Service Center Communities, referred to in this resolve
4 as the "task force," is established to recommend ways of
reversing the decline of the State's principal service center
6 communities, as identified by the State Planning Office, and ways
of strengthening them as centers of job creation and as centers
8 for the delivery of critical services to surrounding regions; and
be it further

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12 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists
of the following members or their designees; the Director of the
State Planning Office, the Commissioner of Economic and Community
14 Development, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Commissioner
of Education, the Commissioner of Transportation, the Director
16 of the Maine State Housing Authority, one Senator appointed by
the President of the Senate, 2 members of the House of
18 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House and 4
officials from service center communities appointed by the
20 Governor; and be it further

22 **Sec. 3. Mission. Resolved:** That the task force shall consider
the obstacles to the continuing economic and social health facing
24 the State's service center communities and recommend ways of
strengthening these communities through strategies including, but
26 not limited to, the following:

28 1. Preserving and enhancing their historic role as regional
service center communities, encouraging cooperation among these
30 service center communities and other political subdivisions in at
least, but not limited to, the following areas:

- 32 A. Business expansion and support;
- 34 B. Economic development;
- 36 C. Law enforcement training and services;
- 38 D. Education and education funding;
- 40 E. Infrastructure improvements; and
- 42 F. Property taxation;
- 44

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2 Investment in infrastructure, utilizing a municipal
infrastructure trust fund and other financing mechanisms, to meet
regional needs;

4 3. State tax and state-local funding policies;

6 4. Programs affecting the development and redevelopment of
8 healthy neighborhoods, including housing, business development,
public safety, transportation, education and social services
10 programs; and

12 5. Land use and environmental regulatory policies in
service center communities.

14 The task force shall begin conducting its study within 30
16 days of the effective date of this resolve; and be it further

18 **Sec. 4. Outreach. Resolved:** That the task force is encouraged
to seek advice and input from county and municipal officials,
20 representatives of business interests and any other parties the
task force considers important to its study and to conduct task
22 force meetings in various service center communities in the
State; and be it further

24 **Sec. 5. Staff; compensation. Resolved:** That within budgeted
26 resources, the executive agencies identified in section 2 of this
resolve shall provide staff assistance to the task force.
28 Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation,
except that Legislators serving on the task force are entitled to
30 the legislative per diem for attendance at task force meetings;
and be it further

32 **Sec. 6. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit a
34 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session
36 of the 118th Legislature by January 1, 1998. If the task force
requires an extension, it may apply to the Legislative Council,
38 which may grant the extension.

40 **Sec. 7. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
42 this resolve.

44 1997-98

46 **LEGISLATURE**

48 **Task Force on Regional Service Center Communities**

50 Personal Services \$ 990

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| | | |
|---|--|----------------|
| 1 | All Other | 1,900 |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | Provides funds for the per diem and expenses | |
| 4 | of legislative members and miscellaneous | |
| 5 | costs, including printing, of the Task Force | |
| 6 | on Regional Service Center Communities. | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | TOTAL | <u>\$2,890</u> |

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FISCAL NOTE

1997-98

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APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

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| | |
|--------------|---------|
| General Fund | \$2,890 |
|--------------|---------|

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The Legislature will require a General Fund appropriation of \$2,890 in fiscal year 1997-98 for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and miscellaneous costs, including printing, of the Task Force on Regional Service Center Communities.

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The departments and agencies that are members of the task force can absorb the costs related to participate on and to provide staff assistance to the task force.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment establishes the Task Force on Regional Service Center Communities to recommend ways to strengthen the State's principal service center communities, including their roles as job creators and regional service providers, and to study the feasibility of and mechanisms to encourage these communities and other political subdivisions of the State to cooperate in areas such as business, economy, law enforcement, education and other areas. The amendment also adds an appropriation section and fiscal note.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT