

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5-20-97

(Filing No. H-573)

MINORITY  
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1086, L.D. 1529, "Resolve, to Determine How to Increase the Number of Students Consuming School Meals"

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

**Sec. 1. Review of school food programs. Resolved:** That the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Center for Research and Evaluation at the University of Maine, the Maine School Food Service Association, the Maine Dietetic Association and the Maine School Management Association shall review free and reduced-price school meal programs. The purpose of this review is to determine the overall effectiveness of the programs in satisfying the nutritional needs of students by providing nutritionally balanced and appealing meals. The Center for Research and Evaluation shall analyze the percentage of eligible students and the level of consumption of the food provided through the school meal programs. In analyzing school food consumption, the Center for Research and Evaluation may survey or interview students, parents and food service personnel or conduct on-site observations and inspections; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Development of plan to address problems. Resolved:** That if, as a result of this review, the Department of Education or the Center for Research and Evaluation identifies shortcomings or areas of concern in the rate of participation or actual level of food consumed through school meal programs, the Department of Education or the Center for Research and Evaluation shall develop a plan to address the concerns. The plan must include a means of offering a program of technical assistance designed to replicate

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 sound practices identified in specific schools, informing  
3 identified schools of the free peer review assistance provided  
4 through the Maine School Food Service Association, and the merits  
5 of encouraging a statewide "Take Your Relative to Lunch Day"  
6 initiative, on "Children's Day" and other days throughout the  
7 school year. In addition, methods of providing identified  
8 schools with model menus may be considered. The plan must also  
9 include a schedule for implementation and be based upon existing  
10 state, local and volunteer resources; and be it further

11 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Education  
12 shall report to the Legislature by January 15, 1998. The report  
13 must include the findings, recommendations and methods of  
14 implementation.'

15 Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the  
16 summary the following:  
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20 **FISCAL NOTE**

21 The additional costs associated with conducting a review of  
22 school lunch programs and reporting on the results of that review  
23 can be absorbed by the Department of Education utilizing existing  
24 budgeted resources.  
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28 **SUMMARY**

29 This resolve directs the Department of Education and the  
30 Center for Research and Evaluation at the University of Maine to  
31 study methods to improve school meal programs and report to the  
32 Legislature by January 15, 1998. The percentage of eligible  
33 students for the free and reduced-price school meal programs and  
34 the actual rate of consumption and the relationship between food  
35 appeal and consumption will be analyzed. If problem areas are  
36 identified as a result of the study, the department is required  
37 to work with other interested parties to develop a plan to  
38 improve those areas within existing resources.  
39  
40