

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

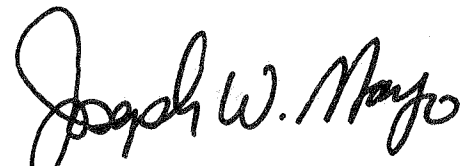
No. 1529

H.P. 1086

House of Representatives, March 18, 1997

**Resolve, to Determine How to Increase the Number of Students
Consuming School Meals.**

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WINN of Glenburn.

Sec. 1. Review of school food programs. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall review free and reduced-price school meal programs. The purpose of this review is to determine the overall effectiveness of the programs in identifying, and serving meals to, eligible students and in satisfying the nutritional needs of students by providing nutritionally balanced and appealing meals. At a minimum, the department shall review the percentage of eligible students who sign up for school meal programs, evaluate the nutritional value of the food provided and analyze the level of consumption of the food provided through school meal programs. In analyzing school food consumption, the department may survey students, conduct on-site observations and inspections and interview students, parents and food service personnel; and be it further

Sec. 2. Development of plan to address problems. Resolved: That if, as a result of its review, the Department of Education identifies shortcomings or areas of concern in the rate of participation, nutritional content or actual level of food consumed through school meal programs, it shall develop a plan to address the concerns. The plan must identify strategies, specific actions and who will address identified concerns. The plan must include a program of technical assistance designed to replicate sound practices identified in specific schools. In developing its plan, the department shall consider the advantages and disadvantages of privatizing school meal programs. The plan must also include a schedule for implementation and any projected costs; and be it further

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall report to the Legislature by January 15, 1998. The report must include the department's findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Education to study school meal programs and to report to the Legislature by January 15, 1998. The department is directed to examine the rate of low-income students participating in school meal programs, the nutritional content of the food provided, the appeal of the food to participating students and the relation between food appeal and consumption. If problems are identified as a result of the study, the department is required to develop a plan to deal with them.