

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1561

S.P. 499

In Senate, March 18, 1997

Resolve, to Establish a Devolution Review Board.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator JENKINS of Androscoggin.

2 **Sec. 1. Task Force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to
Study Fiscal Devolution, referred to in this resolve as the "task
force," is established; and be it further

4
6 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of
11 members appointed as follows: 3 mayors or city managers
appointed by the Governor, the Commissioner of Human Services,
8 the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and
Substance Abuse Services, the Commissioner of Transportation, the
10 State Economist, 2 members of the House of Representatives
appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 2
12 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
and be it further

14
16 **Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be
made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive
18 Director of the Legislative Council upon making their
appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete,
20 the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the
first meeting of the task force no later than September 1, 1997.
22 The task force shall select a chair from among its legislative
members; and be it further

24
26 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall study the
impact of federal downsizing on state programs and reevaluate
spending priorities in the context of state-based revenue-raising
28 capabilities. In examining the impact of federal downsizing the
task force shall consider the following:

30
32 1. The ability to increase the efficiency with which
programs are managed to lessen the impact of reduced federal
funds;

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36 2. The feasibility of shifting funds from other parts of
the state budget to maintain service levels in the areas most
affected by a reduction in federal funds;

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40 3. The impact of shifting responsibilities to lower levels
of government; and

42
44 4. Raising new state revenue to substitute for the
withdrawal of federal funds; and be it further

46 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the task force may
request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative
Council and the State Planning Office; and be it further

