

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1755

H.P. 1238

House of Representatives, April 8, 1997

Resolve, to Study the Efficiency of the State's Work Force Development Programs.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WINN of Glenburn.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CHIZMAR of Lisbon, HATCH of Skowhegan, KERR of Old Orchard Beach, LEMAIRE of Lewiston, MITCHELL of Portland, RINES of Wiscasset, TRIPP of Topsham, Senator: CATHCART of Penobscot.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** many of the State's current programs for preparing
young people for the work force are focused on job training; and

8 **Whereas,** other state programs focus on work force education
by ensuring that young people have basic skills in reading and
writing; and

12 **Whereas,** Maine has 20 or more job training initiatives and a
number of other programs for education of the work force under
the direction of various state agencies; and

16 **Whereas,** the current framework for work force development
programs raises major concerns about a variety of issues,
including overlap, efficiency, accountability and coordination;
and

20 **Whereas,** the Productivity Realization Task Force addressed
this issue through Public Law 1995, chapter 368, Part 00, which
required a study and a report on the subject by the responsible
commissioners; and

26 **Whereas,** the resulting report by the commissioners made
recommendations for resolving the concerns raised by the present
multiagency approach but did not fully correspond with the intent
of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial
Affairs, which requested the study; and

32 **Whereas,** legislation enacted to implement performance-based
budgeting requires work force development programs to be the
subject of a demonstration planning project; and

36 **Whereas,** work force development programs are a major element
in the State's economic development strategy; and

38 **Whereas,** it is essential that the State implement a
framework for coordinating its work force development efforts; and

42 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore, be it

48 **Sec. 1. Work Force Development Study Group. Resolved:** That the
Work Force Development Study Group, referred to in this resolve
as the "study group," is established and must be convened

2 by the Commissioner of Labor. The purpose of the study group is
4 to bring together representatives from government agencies,
6 educators, business people and parents concerned with work force
8 development in order to streamline and coordinate efforts for
10 work force development and training. In particular, the special
and unique needs of at-risk students and students in rural areas
and the availability of meaningful work place opportunities and
training must be addressed. Members of the study group also
include:

12 A. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;

14 B. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's
designee;

16 C. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's
designee;

18 D. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or
20 the commissioner's designee;

22 E. The President of the Maine Technical College System or
24 the president's designee;

26 F. One member representing vocational rehabilitation
interests appointed by the Commissioner of Labor;

28 G. Two members representing work force development
30 programs, one member representing an urban area and one
32 member representing a rural area, appointed by the
Commissioner of Labor;

34 H. Two members representing school-to-work programs, one
36 member representing an urban area and one member
representing a rural area, appointed by the Commissioner of
Labor;

38 I. Two members representing the committee on transition,
40 one member representing an urban area and one member
42 representing a rural area, appointed by the Commissioner of
Labor;

44 J. Two members who are community providers, one member
46 representing an urban area and one member representing a
rural area, appointed by the Commissioner of Labor;

48 K. Two members who are secondary school guidance
50 counselors, one member representing an urban area and one
member representing a rural area, appointed by the
Commissioner of Labor;

2 L. Two members who are parents of secondary school
4 students, one member representing an urban area and one
6 member representing a rural area, appointed by the
Commissioner of Labor;

8 M. Two members who are employers, one member representing a
10 small business and one member representing a large business,
appointed by the Commissioner of Labor; and

12 N. Any other persons concerned with work force development
named by the Commissioner of Labor; and be it further

14 **Sec. 2. Goals and objectives. Resolved:** That the study group
16 shall review the State's work force development goals and
objectives, particularly the coordination of job training and
18 work force education initiatives. The study group shall develop
goals, objectives and strategies for achieving those goals and
20 objectives in a manner that will ensure a significant increase in
work force training for young people. The study group must place
22 particular emphasis on at-risk students, special education
students in transition and rural or geographically disadvantaged
24 students. The study group shall seek public comment and input
from representatives of the business community, including small,
26 rural businesses and high technology businesses; and be it further

28 **Sec. 3. Coordination of programs. Resolved:** That the study
group shall immediately develop and, to the extent possible,
30 implement a plan to coordinate the State's work force development
programs, including recommendations for the elimination and
32 consolidation of those work force development initiatives that
appear to require such action and over which the State has
34 authority; and be it further

36 **Sec. 4. Evaluation. Resolved:** That the study group shall
develop goals and objectives for the coordinated programs and
38 evaluate their goals and objectives against the State's goals and
objectives. The study group shall also implement and budget for
40 a uniform plan for continuing evaluation of whether the work
force development programs are meeting these goals and objectives
42 and whether the program costs are in line with the program
benefits. The evaluation plan developed by the study group must
44 include measures of employer and employee satisfaction; and be it
further

46 **Sec. 5. Assistance to students. Resolved:** That the study group
48 shall ensure that work force development programs take a major
role in counseling new students as to employment opportunities
before training is commenced and in assisting

2 graduates to find employment; that programs recognize that most
students may have several vocations during their working careers
4 because technological advances may quickly render outdated many
of today's specific job skills; and that programs are guided
6 primarily by the students' interests and values; and be it further

8 **Sec. 6. Federal and private programs. Resolved:** That the study
group shall also review federal and private work force
10 development programs and make recommendations to the appropriate
parties for changes to these programs; and be it further

12 **Sec. 7. Unique skills. Resolved:** That the study group shall
ascertain and convey to prospective employers the student skills,
14 interests and unique needs; and be it further

16 **Sec. 8. Directory. Resolved:** That the study group shall
compile a directory of work force development programs for both
18 job training and education with descriptions and contact
information. This directory must contain one number that a
20 business may call for a referral to an appropriate program; and
be it further

22 **Sec. 9. Report. Resolved:** That the study group shall report
24 to the Legislature by November 15th of each year concerning its
progress in the previous year and goals for the next year. This
26 report must contain legislation to accomplish changes determined
necessary by the study group and a justification for existing
28 work force development programs.

30 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.
32

34 SUMMARY

36 This resolve establishes the Work Force Development Study
Group, comprising representatives from a variety of agencies and
38 individuals interested in work force development. The study
group must review the various work force development programs and
40 develop and implement a plan to streamline and coordinate work
force development efforts. The study group must place particular
42 emphasis on increasing the amount of students served with
existing resources and on incorporating the needs of at-risk
44 students, special education students and rural or geographically
disadvantaged students.
46