

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

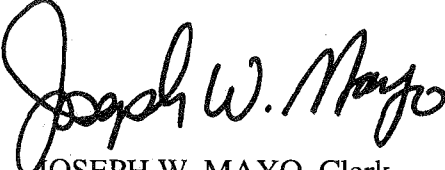
No. 1762

H.P. 1242

House of Representatives, April 9, 1997

**Resolve, Establishing the Task Force to Evaluate the Creation of a
Centralized State Office of Advocacy Services.**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ROWE of Portland.

2 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to
Evaluate the Creation of a Centralized State Office of Advocacy
3 Services, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is
4 established; and be it further

6 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists
of 13 members as follows:

8
10 1. Seven members appointed jointly by the President of the
Senate and the Speaker of the House as follows:

12 A. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health
and Human Services;

14 B. One member of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal
16 Justice;

18 C. One member of the general public who is a former inmate
of a correctional institution or a family member of an
20 inmate or former inmate;

22 D. One member of the general public who is a person with a
mental illness or is a family member of a person with a
24 mental illness;

26 E. One member of the general public who is 60 years of age
or older and who is knowledgeable about advocacy services for
28 the elderly; and

30 F. One member of the general public who has experience and
knowledge of advocacy;

32 2. The Commissioner of Human Services, or the
34 commissioner's designee;

36 3. The Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation
and Substance Abuse Services, or the commissioner's designee;

38 4. The Commissioner of Corrections, or the commissioner's
40 designee;

42 5. The chief advocate from the Office of Advocacy and
Consumer Affairs within the Department of Mental Health, Mental
44 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, or a designee;

46 6. The chief advocate from the Office of Advocacy within
the Department of Corrections, or a designee; and

48 7. The ombudsman of the long-term care ombudsman program
50 within the Department of Human Services, or a designee; and be it
further

2 **Sec. 3. Convening. Resolved:** That the Chair of the
4 Legislative Council shall call the task force together for its
6 first meeting no later than 45 days after adjournment of the
8 First Regular Session of the 118th Legislature. It is not
necessary for all members to be appointed in order for the task
force to meet. A quorum consists of a majority of those
appointed; and be it further

10 **Sec. 4. Chair. Resolved:** That the task force shall select a
12 chair from among the legislative members at the first meeting;
and be it further

14 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall evaluate
16 whether the effectiveness, efficiency or economy of advocacy
18 services provided or supported by State Government would be
20 increased by combining advocacy services within a centralized
22 state office of advocacy services. As a part of its review, the
24 task force shall consider the findings concerning the
centralization of advocacy services contained in the final report
of the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring issued on
December 15, 1991. In conducting its work, the task force shall
evaluate, at a minimum, existing advocacy services for the
following:

- 26 1. Persons with mental health issues or mental retardation;
- 28 2. Hospital patients;
- 30 3. Residents of nursing homes or other long-term care
32 facilities;
- 34 4. Persons with substance abuse problems;
- 36 5. Children with special needs;
- 38 6. Inmates in correctional facilities and their families;
- 40 7. Persons affected by elder persons' issues; and
- 42 8. Persons affected by poverty; and be it further

44 **Sec. 6. Staffing. Resolved:** That at the request of the task
46 force the Legislative Council shall provide staffing assistance;
and be it further

48 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That all members of the task
50 force are entitled to reimbursement for travel and other
necessary expenses upon application to the Legislative Council;
and be it further

2 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit a
written report of its findings, conclusions and recommendations
4 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and
to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice no later than
6 January 15, 1998. If the task force recommends changes to
existing law regarding advocacy services, the task force must
8 include proposed implementing legislation with its report.

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SUMMARY

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This resolve establishes the Task Force to Evaluate the
14 Creation of a Centralized State Office of Advocacy Services.