

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1792

H.P. 1265

House of Representatives, April 15, 1997

An Act to Decrease Young Adult and Adolescent Pregnancies.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services 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 Senator PINGREE of Knox and
Representatives: FULLER of Manchester, KONTOS of Windham, MITCHELL of Portland,
PIEH of Bremen, PLOWMAN of Hampden, Senators: CATHCART of Penobscot,
DAGGETT of Kennebec, PARADIS of Aroostook.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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4 **Sec. 1. Young Adult and Adolescent Pregnancy Task Force; membership.** The Department of Human Services and the Children's Cabinet shall establish and convene the Young Adult and Adolescent Pregnancy Task Force, referred to in this Act as the "task force," for the purpose of studying methods of reducing the rates of young adult and adolescent pregnancies and achieving the goals established in section 2. Membership on the task force is voluntary and is open to any person and or representative of a state agency or department who wishes to serve. For the purposes of this Act, "Children's Cabinet" means the 5 commissioners from the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Safety.

18 **Sec. 2. Goals.** The goals of the task force are to achieve the goals established in the Healthy Maine 2000 Project of the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health for teen and young adult health, as follows:

22 **1. Reduction of pregnancy rate.** To obtain the following reductions in the pregnancy rates:

26 A. For females 10 to 14 years of age, to zero pregnancies per 1,000 females;

28 B. For females 15 to 17 years of age, to zero pregnancies per 1,000 females; and

30 C. For females 18 to 19 years of age, to 90 pregnancies per 1,000 females;

32 **2. Reduction of repeat pregnancies.** To reduce the rate of repeat pregnancies to adolescents to 225 pregnancies per 10,000 live births; and

34 **3. Reduction of unintended pregnancies.** To reduce to 25% the percentage of births that result from an unintended pregnancy.

36 **Sec. 3. Duties of task force.** The specific duties of the task force are as follows.

38 **1. Development of coalition.** The task force shall solicit, incorporate and encourage the participation of a coalition of government, school, community and religious organizations at both the state and local levels to aid in achieving the goals.

2 **2. Public relations program.** The task force shall develop
a public relations program for the purpose of achieving its goals.

4 **3. Provide assistance.** The task force shall assist the
Department of Human Services in the development and
6 implementation of methods to attain its goals.

8 **4. Constructive social activities.** The task force shall
develop and implement methods for providing adolescents with
10 constructive social activities, as determined by the task force,
within their local communities.

12 **5. Mentoring program.** The task force shall develop and
14 implement a mentoring program for those adolescents who are at
risk of becoming pregnant or parenting.

16 **6. Develop future goals.** The task force shall develop
18 goals appropriate for the 21st century.

20 **7. Review.** The task force shall review professional
literature on the subject of young adult and adolescent
22 pregnancy, including, but not limited to: protective factors;
teen parenting; models of responsible sexual behavior; the
24 mentoring program for at-risk adolescents used in California; the
findings of the study conducted by the Harvard Public School of
26 Health on Maine's resiliency and protective factors; the findings
from the Communities for Children Initiative; the findings from
28 the National Campaign to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancies; and
findings from the research and initiatives conducted in Tennessee
30 on young and adolescent pregnancy.

32 **Sec. 4. Meetings.** The task force shall meet in Augusta at
least 4 times per year and may meet in other locations within the
34 State as determined appropriate by the task force.

36 **Sec. 5. Assistance.** The task force may request assistance from
the Department of Human Services, the Executive Department, State
38 Planning Office and other state agencies, which shall cooperate
with the task force and provide any required assistance.

40 **Sec. 6. Compensation; funding.** Members of the task force
42 serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses. No
funding is provided from the General Fund; however, the task
44 force may pursue other sources of funding and is authorized to
expend all such funding procured to achieve the goals of the task
46 force.

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SUMMARY

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This bill creates the Young Adult and Adolescent Pregnancy Task Force to assist in decreasing the number of young adult and adolescent pregnancies. The task force is under the aegis of the Department of Human Services and the "Children's Cabinet." The task force is required to develop and implement a series of measures, including a public relations program and a mentoring program, and to study measures used in California and Tennessee to achieve specified pregnancy reduction goals as recommended by the Healthy Maine 2000 Project of the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health.