

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

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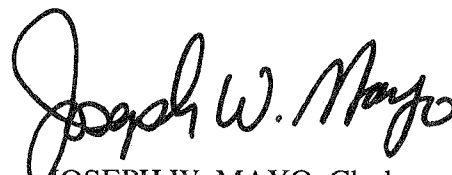
H.P. 1632

House of Representatives, March 6, 1998

**Resolve, Charging the Children's Cabinet Agencies to Support Efforts of
Parents as First Teachers of Their Children.**

Reported by Representative BAKER for the Task Force to Study Strategies to Support
Parents as Children's First Teachers pursuant to Resolve 1997, chapter 68.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested
and printing ordered under Joint Rule 218.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

2 **Preamble. Whereas,** the State is committed to lifelong
learning that begins at birth, so that all children can reach
their highest potential; and

4 **Whereas,** it is clear that the first 3 years of life
6 represent a critical starting point for the healthy development
of children; and

8 **Whereas,** research has identified numerous activities that
10 support positive early brain development so that young children
are not deprived of crucial opportunities for learning that can
12 never be recaptured; and

14 **Whereas,** parents and other caregivers, with the proper
information and support, play a critical role in providing the
16 supportive framework necessary for the development of young
children; and

18 **Whereas,** planning and coordination of services for parents
20 and other caregivers of young children by state and other public
agencies is necessary so that available resources are used
22 effectively and cooperatively; now, therefore, be it

24 **Sec. 1. Fiscal plan. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of
Corrections, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of
26 Human Services and the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental
Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in this resolve called
28 the "Children's Cabinet," shall develop a fiscal plan for the
expansion of existing state-funded child and family support
30 initiatives, including Healthy Families Maine, Head Start and
Early Head Start, Child Development Services, Child Care and
32 Communities for Children, as well as a fiscal plan for the
expansion and support of other initiatives such as the Parents as
34 Teachers Program, Parents Are Teachers, Too and the Maine
Humanities Council program Born to Read; and be it further

36 **Sec. 2. Core curriculum for caregivers. Resolved:** That the
38 Children's Cabinet shall develop a core curriculum that will be
available to all Maine parents and caregivers by 1999; that the
40 Children's Cabinet shall develop a training program for all
caregivers and providers based on the core curriculum; and that
42 all state-funded home visiting services for families with
children 0 to 5 years of age shall provide this information to
44 parents; and be it further

46 **Sec. 3. Family support programs. Resolved:** That the Children's
Cabinet shall study the current family support programs available
48 to parents, identify the need and develop a plan for the creation

2 of additional family support programs, including the designation
and support of family resource centers throughout Maine; and be
it further

4
6 **Sec. 4. Resolve 1997, chapter 68. Resolved:** That Resolve 1997,
chapter 68, section 9 is amended by adding a new 2nd sentence to
read as follows:

8
10 In addition, the task force shall submit a follow-up report to
the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
and the Governor, including any necessary implementing
12 legislation, no later than December 15, 1998.

14 ; and be it further

16 **Sec. 5. Retroactivity. Resolved:** That the section of this
18 resolve that amends Resolve 1997, chapter 68, section 9 is
retroactive to December 1, 1997.

20
22 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill implements recommendations of the Task Force to
Study Strategies to Support Parents as Children's First Teachers
26 created by Resolve 1997, chapter 68. The resolve directs the
Commissioner of Corrections, the Commissioner of Education, the
28 Commissioner of Human Services and the Commissioner of Mental
Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to
30 develop a fiscal plan for the expansion of state-funded child and
family support services and related programs, develop a core
32 curriculum and training program for parents and caregivers and
develop a plan to meet identified needs for family support
34 programs. The resolve also extends the life of the task force
until December 15, 1998.