

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

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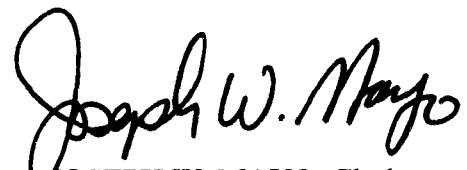
H.P. 642

House of Representatives, February 2, 1999

**An Act to Transfer Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee on  
Improving Outdoor Recreational Opportunities for Persons with  
Disabilities to the Statewide Independent Living Council.**

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Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HATCH of Skowhegan.  
Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§54-A**, as enacted by PL 1995, c.  
560, Pt. F, §8, is repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA c. 19, sub-c. II, art. V** is amended by repealing  
the article headnote and enacting in its place the following:

8 **Article V**

10 **IMPROVING OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL**  
12 **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

14 **Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §§1416 and 1416-A**, as enacted by PL 1995, c.  
560, Pt. F, §13, are repealed.

16 **Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §1416-B** is enacted to read:

18 **§1416-B. Improving recreational opportunities for persons with**  
20 **disabilities**

22 In addition to its existing duties, the Statewide  
24 Independent Living Council, established pursuant to 29 United  
26 States Code, Sections 796 to 796f (1999) and administered by the  
28 Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, through a standing committee  
on recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities,  
shall perform the following duties:

30 1. Advise commissioners. Advise the Commissioner of Labor,  
32 the Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of  
34 Conservation, the Commissioner of Transportation, the  
Commissioner of Marine Resources, the Commissioner of Economic  
and Community Development and the Commissioner of Inland  
Fisheries and Wildlife on ways:

36 A. To provide technical consultation for increasing  
38 participation and inclusion for persons with disabilities in  
all areas of recreation, which are a matter of public  
policy; and

40 B. To promote the expansion of existing and the creation of  
42 new public recreational areas that are accessible to persons  
with disabilities;

44 2. Educate public. Make the public aware of existing  
46 recreational opportunities that are accessible to persons with  
disabilities;

48 3. Provide information. Provide and disseminate  
50 information and education to public and private clubs,

2 organizations and civic groups and to individuals on making  
recreation accessible to persons with disabilities; and

4 4. Conduct evaluations and provide technical assistance.  
6 In conjunction with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services' staff,  
8 conduct accessibility evaluations upon request and provide  
technical assistance to recreation providers and users with  
regard to providing access for persons with disabilities.

10  
12 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill repeals the Advisory Committee on Improving  
16 Outdoor Recreational Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities  
18 and transfers its responsibilities to the Statewide Independent  
Living Council administered by the Department of Labor, Bureau of  
Rehabilitation Services, so that recreational opportunities,  
including indoor recreational activities, are considered within  
the broader context of independent living issues.