MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 956

H.P. 689

House of Representatives, February 3, 1999

Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study Strategies to Support Parents as Children's First Teachers.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BAKER of Bangor.
Cosponsored by President LAWRENCE of York and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, MURPHY of Kennebunk, ROWE of Portland,
STEDMAN of Hartland, TOWNSEND of Portland, Senators: AMERO of Cumberland,
CATHCART of Penobscot, PARADIS of Aroostook.

Sec. 1. Home visiting services to parents. Resolved: That the Department of Human Services shall expand home visiting services to the parents of all newborn children in the State, if the parents desire the services, beginning January 1, 2000, until those children attain the age of 5 years; and be it further

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- Sec. 2. Course of study in parenting education. Resolved: the Department of Education shall include a course of study in parenting education in school curricula from elementary school through high school that includes child development, understanding early brain development, including information about brain development in children who are 5 years of age or under, and the responsibilities of parenting. study must be included in curricula for both career preparation and health education and this course of study must be included in the learning results assessment of students; and be it further
- Sec. 3. Deadline for appointment of additional members to Task Force on Early Care and Education. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Resolve 1997, chapter 68, section 2, the 2 additional members of the Task Force on Early Care and Education appointed pursuant to this resolve must be appointed no later than 30 days after the effective date of this resolve; and be it further

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- Sec. 4. Resolve 1997, c. 68, §§1 and 2, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 1997, c. 68, §§ 1 and 2 are amended to read:
- Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force to Study-Strategies-to-Support-Parents-as-Children's First-Teachers on Early Care and Education, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established to investigate ways to determine the most efficient and effective strategies to support parents as children's first and most influential teachers; and be it further

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Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 16 18 members as follows:

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1. Two \underline{Four} Legislators jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

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The Commissioner of Education, or a designee;

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4. The Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, or a designee;

The Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee;

_	didd grogram,
4	One member representing Head Start, designated by that program;
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8	7. One member representing the Maine Children's Alliance, designated by the alliance;
10	8. One member representing the Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils, designated by the seameil association;
12	9. Three members at large, appointed by the Governor;
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16	 One member representing elementary education, designated by the Maine Education Association;
18	11. One member representing the Parents as Teachers Program, designated by that program;
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22	12. One member representing the Child Development Services System, designated by that program; and
24	13. One member representing the Maine Parent Federation, designated by that program.
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28	All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the
30	Legislative Council upon making their appointments. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall contact
32	appointing authorities who have not made their appointments as of the required date; and be it further
34	; and be it further
36	Sec. 5. Resolve 1997, c. 68, §5, last ¶, amended. Resolved: That
38	Resolve 1997, c. 68, §5, last ¶ is amended to read:
40	As part of its study, the task force shall review early childhood education and parent support programs in other states
42	and shall investigate all possible funding sources to implement its recommendations, including funding from private foundations,
44	fee-for-service, federal grant programs and any other federal, state or local funding that may be available; -and-be-it-further.
46	; and be it further
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5. One member representing Healthy Start, designated by

Sec. 6. Resolve 1997, c. 68, §5, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 1997, c. 68, §5 is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

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The task force also shall monitor the development of the process that supports home visiting programs by the Department of Human Services and the development of a course of study in parenting education by the Department of Education and shall further study the needs of and for family resource centers; and be it further

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; and be it further

Sec. 7. Resolve 1997, c. 68, §9, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 1997, c. 68, §9, as amended by Resolve 1997, c. 122, §5, is further amended to read:

Sec. 9. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, with a copy to the Governor, a report of its findings, including any necessary implementing legislation no later than December 1, 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 legislation, no later than December 15, 1998. The task force shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, including any necessary implementing legislation, no later than January 15, 2001. If the task force requires an extension, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

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SUMMARY

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This resolve implements the following recommendations of the Task Force to Study Strategies to Support Parents as Children's First Teachers.

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- 1. It directs the Department of Human Services to expand home visiting services to the parents of all newborn children in the State, if the parents desire the services, beginning January 1, 2000, until those children attain the age of 5 years.
- 2. It directs the Department of Education to include a course of study in parenting education in its development of curricula and that this course of study be included in the learning results assessment of students.

The resolve also changes the name of the task force to the "Task Force on Early Care and Education." It directs the task force to monitor the development of the process that supports home visiting programs by the Department of Human Services and the development of a course of study in parenting education by the Department of Education and to further study the needs of and for family resource centers. The resolve adds 2 more members who are Legislators to the task force and extends the life of the task force until January 15, 2001.