

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1428

H.P. 1017

House of Representatives, February 23, 1999

Resolve, to Enhance Fire Protection Services throughout the State.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative McALEVEY of Waterboro.
Cosponsored by Representative DUPLESSIE of Westbrook,
Senator O'GARA of Cumberland and
Representatives: CHIZMAR of Lisbon, COLLINS of Wells, MUSE of South Portland,
O'BRIEN of Augusta, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, TOBIN of Dexter, USHER of Westbrook,
Senator: MacKINNON of York.

Sec. 1. Enhancement of fire protection services throughout the State.

2 **Resolved:** That the Department of Public Safety, the Maine State
4 Retirement System, the Maine Fire Training and Education Program
6 within the Maine Technical College System and the State Employee
Health Commission within the Bureau of Human Resources shall take
the following actions to ensure that fire protection services are
enhanced throughout the State.

8
1. The Department of Public Safety shall strengthen the
10 Office of the State Fire Marshal by accomplishing the following:

12 A. Provide additional fire investigators to ensure timely
and comprehensive fire investigations;

14 B. Provide additional public fire safety education
16 resources to target citizens at greatest risk of injury and
death by fire;

18 C. Enhance educational opportunities in code management for
20 local public officials and private sector professionals;

22 D. Develop a statewide fire data information system to
24 clearly document the fire problems in every community; and

26 E. Promote the application of the latest investigative
technologies.

28 2. The Maine State Retirement System shall recognize the
contributions of volunteer and call firefighters in local
30 communities, provide incentives for more citizens to join and
remain active in volunteer and call fire departments and
32 encourage volunteer and call firefighters to become better
trained and maintain higher levels of life-saving skills by
34 establishing a length of service incentive program for the
State's volunteer and call firefighters.

36 3. The State Employee Health Commission shall enhance the
38 safety and reduce health risks of career firefighters, provide
insurance coverage for retired firefighters' health care costs,
40 create opportunities for communities to hire younger firefighters
and provide a mechanism to lower firefighter injury rates and
42 benefit costs to local communities by establishing a health
coverage "bridge" for retired career firefighters.

44 4. The Maine Technical College System, the Maine Fire
46 Training and Education Program shall strengthen firefighter
training and education in Maine communities by accomplishing the
48 following:

2 A. Train 50% more firefighters than are currently trained
in local communities statewide. Training must be offered
4 annually by the Maine Fire Training and Education Program
and must be free of charge;

6 B. Increase grant funds available to local communities to
support construction of specialized training facilities
8 where the State's 12,000 firefighters can practice
life-saving hands-on skills;

10 C. Provide all firefighters with the opportunity for fire
12 science education and leadership education through available
distance learning technologies, including interactive
14 television and the Internet;

16 D. Ensure that local fire departments have current training
and education materials and equipment to prepare members for
18 fires and other community emergencies;

20 E. Provide a one-stop resource center for all firefighters
and citizens; and

22 F. Support the development of fire and emergency leaders
24 throughout the State; and be it further

26 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Public
Safety, the Maine State Retirement System, the Maine Fire
28 Training and Education Program within the Maine Technical College
System and the State Employee Health Commission within the Bureau
30 of Human Resources shall report their progress regarding the
creation and implementation of fire safety enhancements and
32 submit any necessary legislation to the Joint Standing Committee
on Criminal Justice by January 15, 2000; and be it further

34 **Sec. 3. Effective date. Resolved:** That this resolve takes
36 effect December 15, 1999.

38
40 **SUMMARY**

This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety, the
42 Maine State Retirement System, the Maine Fire Training and
Education Program within the Maine Technical College System and
44 the State Employee Health Commission within the Bureau of Human
Resources to take several steps to enhance fire protection
46 services throughout the State. The resolve also directs those
entities to report their progress regarding the creation and
48 implementation of fire safety enhancements and submit any
necessary legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal
50 Justice by January 15, 2000.