

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1470

H.P. 1048

House of Representatives, February 23, 1999

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study the Simplification of the School Funding Formula.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CLOUGH of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of York and
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, BUCK of Yarmouth, KNEELAND of Easton,
LOVETT of Scarborough, MURPHY of Kennebunk, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland,
STEDMAN of Hartland.

2 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to
Study the Simplification of the School Funding Formula, referred
4 to in this resolve as the "task force," is established; and be it
further

6 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force
consists of community leaders, one from each county and one
8 administrator from the University of Maine System. Members of
the task force may not be Legislators or educators. The county
10 designees and the administrator position from the University of
Maine System must be chosen by the following groups after a
12 drawing is held to determine which group is to appoint the
designee. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council
14 shall conduct the drawing. The 17 members are selected as
follows:

16 1. Three members appointed by a caucus of the Democratic
18 Party of the House of Representatives;

20 2. Three members appointed by a caucus of the Republican
22 Party of the House of Representatives;

24 3. Three members appointed by a caucus of the Democratic
Party of the Senate;

26 4. Three members appointed by a caucus of the Republican
28 Party of the Senate; and

30 5. Five members appointed by the Governor; and be it further

32 **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
appointments and any designations must be made no later than 30
34 days following the effective date of this resolve. The Executive
Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by all
36 appointing and any designating authorities once the selections
have been made. Within 15 days after the appointment or
38 designation of all members, the Chair of the Legislative Council
shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. The
40 task force shall select a chair from among its members. A quorum
consists of a majority of those appointed; and be it further

42 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall develop a
school funding formula that provides for the fair and equitable
44 distribution of funds to schools throughout the State. The
formula must be structured in such a way that the funding process
46 and distribution of funds are easily understood by people
throughout the State; and be it further

48 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the task force may seek
50 staffing assistance from the Legislative Council; and be it
further

2 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the members of the
task force are entitled to the equivalent amount of legislative
4 per diem and travel expenses upon application to the Legislative
Council. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall
6 administer the task force's budget; and be it further

8 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit
its report with any accompanying legislation to the Joint
10 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by February
15, 2000.

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SUMMARY

16 This resolve establishes the Task Force to Study the
Simplification of the School Funding Formula. The members of the
18 task force consist of 17 community leaders, one member from each
county and one administrator from the University of Maine
System. The task force shall develop a school funding formula
20 that provides for the fair and equitable distribution of funds to
schools throughout the State and the formula must be structured
22 in a way that can be easily understood by people throughout the
State.

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