

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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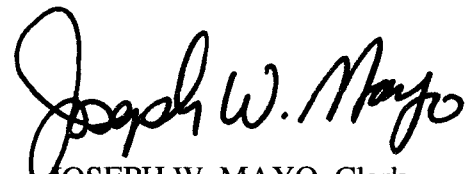
H.P. 1351

House of Representatives, March 18, 1999

**Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study the Funding of and to Develop an Improved Decision-making Process for the Residential Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Issues.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative McKEE of Wayne.  
Cosponsored by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin.

2           **Sec. 1. Task force established to study the funding of and to develop**  
3 **an improved decision-making process for the residential treatment of youth**  
4 **with mental health issues. Resolved:** That there is established the  
5 Task Force to Study the Funding of and to Develop an Improved  
6 Decision-making Process for the Residential Treatment of Youth  
7 with Mental Health Issues, referred to in this resolve as the  
8 "task force" ; and be it further

9           **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force  
10 consists of 7 members appointed by the Speaker of the House as  
11 follows:

12           1. Two members of the House of Representatives, one of whom  
13 serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural  
14 Affairs;

15           2. One representative from the Department of Education  
16 chosen from a list provided by the Commissioner of Education;

17           3. One representative from the Department of Mental Health,  
18 Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services chosen from a  
19 list provided by the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental  
20 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services;

21           4. One educational administrator with experience in mental  
22 health issues;

23           5. One parent whose child has received residential  
24 treatment for mental health reasons; and

25           6. One member of the public with an interest in the  
26 residential treatment of youth with mental health issues; and be  
27 it further

28           **Sec. 3. Chair; appointments; convening task force. Resolved:** That  
29 the members of the task force shall elect a chair by majority  
30 vote. The Speaker of the House shall notify the Executive  
31 Director of the Legislative Council when all appointments have  
32 been made. The executive director shall call and convene the  
33 first meeting of the task force within 30 days after all  
34 appointments have been made. The task force shall meet at least  
35 3 times before submitting a report on its findings; and be it  
36 further

37           **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force may hold public  
38 meetings, gather information and request necessary data from  
39 public and private entities in order to accomplish the following  
40 duties:  
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2           1. Review the current process and funding mechanism for the  
4 placement of youth with mental health issues into residential  
6 treatment, including a study of potential inequities,  
8 inconsistencies and lack of uniformity in how this process and  
10 funding is administered among the various school districts in the  
12 State;

14           2. Develop a proposal that requires the decision of whether  
16 to place a youth with mental health issues into residential  
18 treatment or a day program to be made at the state level and  
20 develop a proposal for a permanent commission or process that  
22 would administer and oversee the placement and treatment of a  
24 youth with mental health issues into a residential treatment or  
day program; and

          3. Develop a funding mechanism by which the State directly  
pays the cost of a recommended residential treatment or day  
program for a youth with mental health issues; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the task force may  
request staffing assistance from the Department of Education and  
the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance  
Abuse Services; and be it further

**Sec. 6. Expenses. Resolved:** That those members of the task  
force who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative  
per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,  
section 2 and reimbursement of necessary expenses for their  
attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other  
members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by  
their employers or other entities whom they represent are  
entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred  
for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

**Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, by January 1, 2000, the task  
force shall submit a report of its findings to the Joint Standing  
Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs along with any  
implementing legislation.

## SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Task Force to Study the Funding  
of and to Develop an Improved Decision-making Process for the  
Residential Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Issues. The  
task force consists of 7 members and is required to:

2           1. Review the current process and funding mechanism for the  
placement of youth with mental health issues into residential  
4 treatment;

6           2. Develop a proposal that requires the decision of whether  
to place a youth with mental health issues into residential  
8 treatment or a day program to be made at the state level, and  
develop a proposal for a permanent commission or process that  
10 would administer and oversee the placement and treatment of a  
youth with mental health issues into a residential treatment or  
12 day program; and

14           3. Develop a funding mechanism by which the State directly  
pays the cost of a recommended residential treatment or day  
16 program for a youth with mental health issues.

18           The task force shall submit a report of its findings to the  
Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs along  
20 with any implementing legislation by January 1, 2000.