

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. 2181

H.P. 1528

House of Representatives, April 9, 1999

Resolve, to Help Homeless Young People Returning to Home or Safe Living Situations.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative QUINT of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator PINGREE of Knox and
Representatives: BRAGDON of Bangor, LOVETT of Scarborough, O'NEIL of Saco, ROWE
of Portland, TOWNSEND of Portland, Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, MURRAY of
Penobscot, PARADIS of Aroostook.

Sec. 1. Homeless Youth Demonstration Project created. Resolved:

That the Homeless Youth Demonstration Project, referred to in this resolve as the "project," is created. The project is administered jointly by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. The Department of Human Services is the lead agency for the project. The project operates 2 sites in the State to explore services for unaccompanied youths and youths-at-risk that are innovative, collaborative, creative and youth-driven and that create a nontraditional approach to providing youth services; and be it further

Sec. 2. Stakeholders' groups. Resolved:

That the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall convene a northern stakeholders' group and a southern stakeholders' group to assist in the planning, development, operation and evaluation of the project. "Stakeholders' group" means a group composed of governmental agencies, regional children's cabinets, nonprofit organizations and Legislators and other governmental officials and education officials and other organizations and individuals who have an interest in unaccompanied youths and youths-at-risk; and be it further

Sec. 3. Location of project sites. Resolved:

That the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services with the assistance of the 2 stakeholders' groups shall select 2 project sites in which to conduct the project. The northern stakeholders' group shall assist in selecting a northern project site located in Bangor and the southern stockholders' group shall assist in selecting a southern project site located in Portland; and be it further

Sec. 4. Purpose. Resolved:

That the project shall plan, develop and deliver services at the project sites that address the issues and needs of unaccompanied youths and youths-at-risk. These services must be innovative, creative, collaborative and youth-driven and take a nontraditional approach to providing youth services. The project shall develop services that:

1. Expand and strengthen traditional approaches that provide low-barrier access for homeless and runaway youths to basic services such as meals, clothes and emergency night shelter;

2. Provide casework on site where the youths are located to ensure that the youths have ready access to the full range of services available that allow them to achieve stability in their lives;

3. Increase housing for youths who are 12 years of age to 17 years of age by providing a low-barrier transitional home that offers a broad array of services that are needed by the youths;

4. Expand educational programs for homeless youths, with particular attention to youths in middle school, and increase educational services that are coupled with vocational training; and

5. Develop and implement an evaluation mechanism that ensures the potential to replicate the project in other sites.

The project shall also review whether the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services should each have a bureau for adolescents that delivers services to youths who are 12 years of age to 21 years of age; and be it further

Sec. 5. Evaluation and report. Resolved: That the Department of Human Services shall submit an interim report to the Legislature by January 1, 2000 detailing the progress that the project has made. By January 1, 2001, each stakeholders' group with the assistance of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall draft an evaluation of the activities at the stakeholders' group project site including what services or approaches have worked or have not worked. The evaluation must discuss areas in the development and delivery of youth services that need improvement along with any recommendations concerning the development or delivery of youth services by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. The evaluation must also describe the measurable outcomes of the project at the site including the services provided, the number of youths served and other statistics that the stakeholders' group determines are significant. The Department of Human Services shall report the evaluation and recommendations of each stakeholders' group to the Legislature by February 1, 2001; and be it further

Sec. 6. Funding. Resolved: That funding for the project must be spent equally between the two project sites; and be it further

Sec. 7. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

	1990-00	2000-01
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		

2	Homeless Youth Demonstration Project		
4	All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
6	Provides funds to operate 2		
8	project sites that will		
10	deliver services to		
	unaccompanied youths and		
	youths-at-risk.		
12	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES		
	TOTAL	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
14			
16	MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION		
	AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES,		
18	DEPARTMENT OF		
20	Homeless Youth Demonstration Project		
22	All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
24	Provides funds to operate 2		
26	project sites that will		
28	deliver services to		
	unaccompanied youths and		
	youths-at-risk.		
30	DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH,		
32	MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE		
	ABUSE SERVICES		
	TOTAL	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>
34			
36	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	<u>\$300,000</u>	<u>\$300,000</u>

38

SUMMARY

40

42 This resolve creates the Homeless Youth Demonstration
44 Project, referred to in this summary as the "project," to operate
46 a site in Bangor and a site in Portland at which the project will
48 develop and deliver creative, innovative and collaborative
50 nontraditional services to unaccompanied youths and
youths-at-risk. The project is administered jointly by the
Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health,
Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services along with 2
stakeholders' groups composed of interested organizations and
individuals organized by the departments for both sites. The

2 project is to report back to the Legislature with an evaluation
including measurable outcomes and recommended implementing
legislation by February 1, 2001. This resolve appropriates
4 \$300,000 a year for 2 years to fund the project.