

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2187

H.P. 1534

House of Representatives, April 13, 1999

Resolve, to Implement the Study and Report on the Problems of Homeless Youth.

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 PARADIS of Aroostook and
Representatives: BROOKS of Winterport, KANE of Saco, NORBERT of Portland,
VOLENIK of Brooklin, WILLIAMS of Orono.

2 **Sec. 1. Study of potential Maine runaway and homeless youth system**
3 **established. Resolved:** That the study of a potential Maine runaway
4 and homeless youth system is established. The study must
5 examine, for runaway and homeless youth, community-based options,
6 low-barrier access, assessment, treatment, family mediation and
7 outreach services that are consistent statewide to determine what
8 minimal level of service is required to ensure the safety and
well-being of unaccompanied homeless youths.

10 1. The study must be conducted by a 10-member task force
11 appointed as follows:

12 A. One Senator, appointed by the President of the Senate;

14 B. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed
15 by the Speaker of the House;

18 C. One member of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness
19 and Housing Opportunities, appointed by the Governor;

20 D. One member of the public who has an interest in issues
21 involving runaway and homeless youths, appointed by the
22 Governor;

24 E. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's
25 designee;

28 F. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's
29 designee;

30 G. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's
31 designee;

34 H. The Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation
35 and Substance Abuse Services or the commissioner's designee;
36 and

38 I. The Executive Director of the Maine State Housing
39 Authority or the executive director's designee.
40

42 The first-named Senator and the first-named member of the House
43 of Representatives are co-chairs of the task force. Those members
44 of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to receive the
45 legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes,
46 Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement of necessary expenses for
their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other

2 members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by
3 their employers or other entities whom they represent are
4 entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred
5 for their attendance at authorized meetings.

6 2. The study must include the following:

8 A. A detailed description of unaccompanied youths by age,
9 the services the youths need and the barriers the youths
10 face;

12 B. A review of all statutes and rules regarding
13 unaccompanied homeless youths, including all license
14 requirements and associated service descriptions;

16 C. A review of current funding programs for homeless youths
17 through the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation
18 and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Human
19 Services and the relative success of these programs in
20 serving homeless youths;

22 D. The creation of standards for programs for providers of
23 services to ensure that these services reach the targeted
24 population and that those services are effective;

26 E. Identification of potential funding sources that can be
27 pooled to provide flexibility in serving unaccompanied
28 youths;

30 F. Identification of the agency responsible for
31 implementing a runaway youth act; and

32 G. An examination of legislative proposals for children in
33 need of services laws that allow a court to mandate
34 treatment for youths who desperately need help.

36 3. All appointments must be made by November 1, 1999. The
37 appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the
38 Legislative Council once the appointments have been made.

40 4. The task force may request staffing assistance from the
41 Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, upon approval from the
42 Legislative Council.

44 5. By March 1, 2000, the task force shall submit a report
45 of its findings to the Legislature, together with any recommended
46 implementing legislation; and be it further

2 **Sec. 2. Department of Corrections, Department of Education,**
4 **Department of Human Services, Department of Labor and Department of**
6 **Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to**
 develop additional services and plans to serve youths who have outgrown
 the system. Resolved:

 That the Department of Corrections, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Labor and Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall develop additional services and plans to serve youths who have outgrown the system. These services and plans, referred to in this section as "services and plans," must assist youths who are up to 21 years of age and who are leaving the care of a department to undertake job training and to pursue education and housing programs. Each department shall conduct a review of the department's delivery of services to youths who are up to 21 years of age and develop proposed recommendations for services and plans in the following manner:

18 1. The Department of Corrections shall focus on community
20 placement in a therapeutic environment;

22 2. The Department of Education shall focus on
24 nontraditional educational opportunities that promote attaining a
 high school diploma;

26 3. The Department of Human Services shall focus on
28 providing caseworkers and increasing access to basic services and
 opportunities;

30 4. The Department of Labor shall focus on work
32 opportunities and vocational training and experience; and

34 5. The Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and
36 Substance Abuse Services shall focus on expanding caseworker and
 clinical support for issues that include substance abuse.

38 Each department shall also consider whether to create an
40 adolescent division to administer all of the services that the
42 department provides to youths who are up to 21 years of age. The
44 Department of Human Services shall coordinate and assist the
46 departments in the development of services and plans. Each
 department shall report to the Department of Human Services
 before March 1, 2000 on the results of the review of the
 department's delivery of services to youths who are up to 21
 years of age and the progress made in developing services and
 plans. The Department of Human Services shall report to the
 Legislature on or before March 1, 2000 on the progress each

2 department has made in reviewing and developing services and
plans. The Department of Human Services shall report to the
4 Legislature on or before June 1, 2001 on the final results of
each department's effort to create services and plans.

6 **Sec. 3. Study of impact of legislative changes over last 8 years to**
General Assistance established. Resolved: That a study of the impact
8 of legislative changes over the last 8 years to General
Assistance, referred to in this section as the "study," is
10 established. The study must assess program effectiveness,
administrative practices at the local and state level, cost of
12 delivering General Assistance, client benefits and the effect on
homelessness.

14 1. The study must be conducted by a 9-member task force
16 appointed as follows:

18 A. One Senator, appointed by the President of the Senate;

20 B. One representative of a homeless shelter, appointed by
the President of the Senate;

22 C. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed
24 by the Speaker of the House;

26 D. One representative of the Maine Homeless Coalition,
appointed by the Governor;

28 E. Two members of the public recommended by the Maine
30 Municipal Association, appointed by the Governor;

32 F. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's
designee; and

34 G. The Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation
36 and Substance Abuse Services or the commissioner's designee.

38 The first-named Senator and the first-named member of the House
of Representatives are cochair of the task force. Those members
40 of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to receive the
legislative per diem, as defined by the Maine Revised Statutes,
42 Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement of necessary expenses for
their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other
44 members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by
their employers or other entities whom they represent are
46 entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred
for their attendance at authorized meetings.

48 2. All appointments must be made by November 1, 1999. The
50 appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the
Legislative Council once the appointments have been made.

2 3. The task force may request staffing assistance from the
Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, upon approval by the
4 Legislative Council.

6 4. By March 1, 2000, the task force shall submit a report
of its findings to the Legislature, together with any recommended
8 implementing legislation; and be it further

10 **Sec. 4. Funding for Temporary Housing Assistance Program**
increased to \$500,000. Resolved: That the funding for the Temporary
12 Housing Assistance Program is increased by \$250,000. The amount
of the increase is dedicated to serve homeless families or
14 homeless youths staying in shelters in securing housing by
providing security deposits and rental assistance. The Community
16 Action Agencies shall administer the dedicated funds; and be it
further

18 **Sec. 5. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
20 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
this resolve.

22 1999-00

24 **CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF**

26 **Program Development**

28 All Other \$100,000

30 Provides funds to develop
32 services and plans for youths
who outgrow department care.

34 **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**
36 **TOTAL** \$100,000

38 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

40 **Program Development**

42 All Other \$100,000

44 Provides funds to develop
46 services and plans for youths
who outgrow department care.

48 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
TOTAL \$100,000

2	HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	
4	Study of General Assistance	
6	All Other	\$5,000
8	Provides funds to study the	
10	impact of legislative changes	
12	to General Assistance over	
14	the last 8 years.	
16	Program Development	
18	All Other	\$100,000
20	Provides funds to develop	
22	services and plans for youths	
24	who outgrow department care.	
26	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	
28	TOTAL	<u>\$105,000</u>
30	LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF	
32	Program Development	
34	All Other	\$100,000
36	Provides funds to develop	
38	services and plans for youths	
40	who outgrow department care.	
42	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	
44	TOTAL	<u>\$100,000</u>
46	MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION	
48	AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES,	
	DEPARTMENT OF	
	Program Development	
	All Other	\$100,000
	Provides funds to develop	
	services and plans for youths	
	who outgrow department care.	

2	DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL	
	RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE	
	SERVICES	
4	TOTAL	<u>\$100,000</u>
6	MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY	
8	Study of Potential Maine Runaway	
	and Homeless Youth System	
10	All Other	\$20,000
12	Provides funds to conduct a	
14	study of a potential Maine	
	runaway and homeless youth	
16	system.	
18	Temporary Housing Assistance Program	
20	All Other	\$500,000
22	Provides funds for the	
	Temporary Housing Assistance	
24	Program.	
26	MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY	
	TOTAL	<u>\$520,000</u>
28		
30	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	<u>\$1,025,000</u>

32
34

SUMMARY

36 This resolve implements 4 recommendations of the Interagency
37 Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities, issued
38 pursuant to Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part XX, section 5.
39 The following are the 4 recommendations implemented by this
40 resolve.

42 1. This resolve establishes a study of a potential Maine
43 runaway and homeless youth system. The study must examine, for
44 runaway and homeless youth, community-based options, low-barrier
45 access, assessment, treatment, family mediation and outreach
46 services that are consistent statewide to determine what minimal
47 level of service is required to ensure the safety and well-being
48 of unaccompanied homeless youths. This resolve establishes a
49 10-member task force to conduct the study and submit a report of
50 its findings, together with any recommended implementing
51 legislation to the Legislature by March 1, 2000. The resolve
52 appropriates \$20,000 through the Maine State Housing Authority to
pay for the study.

2 2. The resolve appropriates \$100,000 each for the
3 Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services,
4 Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance
5 Abuse Services, Department of Labor and Department of Education
6 to develop additional services and plans to serve youths who have
7 outgrown the system. These services and plans must assist youths
8 who are up to 21 years of age and who are leaving the care of a
9 department to undertake job training and to pursue education and
10 housing programs.

12 3. The resolve establishes a study of the impact of
13 legislative changes over the last 8 years to General Assistance.
14 The study must assess program effectiveness, administrative
15 practices at the local and state level, cost of delivering
16 General Assistance, client benefits and the effect on
17 homelessness. This resolve establishes a 9-member task force to
18 conduct the study and submit a report of its findings, together
19 with any recommended implementing legislation to the Legislature
20 by March 1, 2000. The resolve appropriates \$5,000 through the
21 Department of Human Services to pay for the study.

22 4. The resolve increases the funding for the Temporary
23 Housing Assistance Program by \$250,000, from \$250,000 to
24 \$500,000. The amount increased is dedicated to serve homeless
25 families or homeless youths staying in shelters in securing
26 housing by providing security deposits and rental assistance.
27 The Community Action Agencies shall administer the dedicated
28 funds.

29 The total amount of the appropriations contained in this
30 resolve equals \$1,025,000.
31
32