

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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S.P. 598

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 598, "Joint Study Order to Develop Alternative Program for Violent and Disruptive Students"

Amend the joint order by striking out all of subsections 2 and 3 and inserting in their place the following:

'2. Task force membership. The task force consists of 9 members appointed as follows.

A. The President of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from the Senate: one member who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs; one member who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice; and one member who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

B. The President of the Senate shall appoint 3 public members to the task force, one from each of the following interested parties:

(1) One person who is currently employed at a public school in the State who has specific expertise, knowledge, background and oversight of violence prevention and intervention programs and alternative education settings;

(2) One person who is currently contracted as a human services or mental health professional in a local or regional school-linked, community-based partnership who has specific expertise, knowledge, background and oversight of violence prevention and intervention programs and alternative community placements; and

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2 (3) One person who is currently involved as a public
3 school student in a school-based peer mediation team or
4 civil rights team with specific knowledge of and
5 background in violence prevention and intervention
6 programs, including conflict resolution education.

7 C. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
8 appoint 3 members from the House of Representatives: one
9 member who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on
10 Education and Cultural Affairs; one member who serves on the
11 Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice; and one member
12 who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
13 Human Services.

14 3. **Chairs.** The first Senate member named is the Senate
15 chair and the first House member named is the House chair.'

16 Further amend the joint order in subsection 4 in the next to
17 the last line by striking the following: "chair" and inserting in
18 its place the following: 'chairs'

19 Further amend the joint order by striking out all of
20 subsection 5 and inserting in its place the following:

21 '5. **Duties.** The task force shall:
22
23 A. Study the availability of a continuum of interventions
24 for violent and chronically disruptive students, including
25 the existence of positive behavioral supports in classrooms,
26 the availability of alternative educational settings for
27 disruptive students and alternative community placements;

28 B. Recommend a plan and strategies to develop an
29 appropriate continuum of interventions for violent and
30 chronically disruptive students;

31 C. Request, as appropriate, the assistance of: the
32 Department of Education; the Department of Human Services;
33 the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and
34 Substance Abuse Services; the Department of Corrections; the
35 Department of the Attorney General; the Chief Judge of the
36 District Court; the Department of Public Safety; the
37 University of Maine System; and other appropriate state
38 agencies and educational institutions;

39 D. Invite the participation of experts and interested
40 parties, including individuals affiliated with: the
41 Communities for Children Initiative of the Governor's
42 Children's Cabinet; the Children's Mental Health Oversight
43 Committee; the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group; the Maine
44

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2 Chiefs of Police Association; the Maine Sheriff's
3 Association; Drug Abuse Resistance Education Programs
4 (DARE); Youth Alternatives, Incorporated; the Maine Council
5 of Churches; the Excellence in Citizen Education Through the
6 Law Program (EXCEL) at the University of Maine Law School;
7 and the Peace Studies Program at the University of Maine; and

8 E. Recommend draft legislation to create an appropriate
9 continuum of interventions for violent and chronically
10 disruptive students, including the availability of
11 alternative educational settings and alternative community
12 placements for violent and chronically disruptive students.'

14 Further amend the joint order by striking out all of
15 subsection 7 and inserting in its place the following:

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17 '7. **Expenses.** Legislative members of the task force are
18 entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the
19 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement of
20 necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of
21 the task force. Public members who are not otherwise compensated
22 by their employers or other entities that they represent are
23 entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and a per
24 diem equal to the legislative per diem for their attendance at
25 authorized meetings of the task force.'

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30 **SUMMARY**

31 This amendment accomplishes the following:

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33 1. It strikes the membership subsection of the joint study
34 order and replaces it with a 9-member task force composed of 6
35 Legislators and 3 public members involved in school-based or
36 community-based violence prevention and intervention programs;

37
38 2. It expands the duties charged to the task force,
39 including requesting assistance from certain state agencies and
40 inviting the participation of experts and interested parties; and

41
42 3. It permits public members of the task force to receive
43 reimbursement of necessary expenses and a per diem equal to the
44 legislative per diem for their attendance at authorized meetings
45 of the task force if they are not otherwise compensated by their
46 employers or other entities that they represent.

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