

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. S.

L.D. 472

DATE: 3-30-01

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MAJORITY
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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 370, L.D. 472, "Resolve, to Establish a Fatherhood Issues Study Commission"

Amend the resolve by inserting after the title and before the concept draft summary the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, although the participation of fathers in their children's lives is integral to each child's optimum development, barriers to that participation exist at all socioeconomic levels, whether children live with their fathers full-time, part-time or not at all; and

Whereas, men participate less in the lives of their children than do their female counterparts, according to national research; and

Whereas, the presence of strong fathers is clearly linked to academic achievement and overall emotional health of children; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to convene a study to identify the barriers and develop strategies to eliminate and overcome the barriers; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for consideration by the next legislative session; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
3 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
4 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
5 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
6 safety; now, therefore, be it

8 **Sec. 1. Commission on Fatherhood Issues established. Resolved:**
9 That the Commission on Fatherhood Issues, referred to in this
10 resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

12 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
13 consists of the following 11 members:

14 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of
15 the Senate, one of whom is a member of the Joint Standing
16 Committee on Judiciary and one of whom is a member of the Joint
17 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;

20 2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed
21 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at least one of
22 whom is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and
23 at least one of whom is a member of the Joint Standing Committee
24 on Health and Human Services;

26 3. Three public members appointed by the President of the
27 Senate; and

28 4. Three public members appointed by the Speaker of the
29 House; and be it further

32 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first named Senate member
33 is the Senate chair of the commission and the first named House
34 of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission;
35 and be it further

36 **Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
37 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
38 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
39 Legislative Council must be notified by the appointing
40 authorities once the selections have been made. When the
41 appointment of all members has been completed, the chairs of the
42 commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the
43 commission no later than August 15, 2001; and be it further

46 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study
47 issues associated with being a father in the State.

48 1. In conducting the study, the commission shall:

- 2 A. Determine the multiple barriers to fathers' involvement
in the lives of their children;
- 4
- 6 B. Identify the availability of private and public services
statewide to enhance the parenting abilities of fathers;
- 8
- 10 C. Identify significant personal, institutional, legal and
cultural barriers to active, positive parenting by fathers;
and
- 12 D. Identify and develop strategies to improve the parenting
abilities of fathers across the socioeconomic spectrum and
14 varying resident status.

16 2. In examining these issues, the commission may hold 2
public hearings to collect ideas and comments from the public;
18 and be it further

20 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
22 shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and
be it further

24 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
commission are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined
26 in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and
reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for their
28 attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be it
30 further

32 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
34 to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later
than December 5, 2001. If the commission requires a limited
36 extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the
Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it
38 further

40 **Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the commission,
with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the
42 commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the
commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the
44 Legislative Council for approval. The commission may not incur
expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding its
46 approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the Executive
Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the
48 commission chairs and staff with a status report on the
commission's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available
50 funds; and be it further

2 **Sec. 10. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
3 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
4 this resolve.

6 **2001-02**

8 **LEGISLATURE**

10 **Commission on Fatherhood Issues**

12 Personal Services \$3,025
13 All Other 5,600

14 Provides funds for the per
15 diem and expenses of members
16 of the Commission on
17 Fatherhood Issues, as well as
18 printing, mailing and
19 advertising and public
20 hearing costs.

22 **LEGISLATURE**
23 **TOTAL**

24 \$8,625

26 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
27 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.'

28 Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the
29 concept draft summary the following:

30 **FISCAL NOTE**

32 **2001-02**

34 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

36 General Fund \$8,625

38 The Legislature will require an additional General Fund
39 appropriation of \$8,625 in fiscal year 2001-02 for the per diem
40 and expenses of legislative members and other eligible members of
41 the Commission on Fatherhood Issues, for public hearing costs and
42 to print the required report.

44 The additional costs associated with providing staffing
45 assistance to the commission during the interim between
46 legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing
47 existing budgeted resources. If an extension of the reporting
48 deadline is granted and the commission requires staffing
49 assistance during the legislative session, the Legislature may
50

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 370, L.D. 472

require an additional General Fund appropriation to contract for staff services.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the original concept draft with a resolve to create the Commission on Fatherhood Issues consisting of 11 members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The commission will study issues concerning the barriers to being an involved father in Maine. In addition to looking at specific issues, the commission will also identify and develop strategies to improve the parenting abilities of fathers.