

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1237

H.P. 923

House of Representatives, February 28, 2001

**Resolve, to Provide Resources for Youth who are Homeless or At Risk  
of Homelessness.**

(EMERGENCY)

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative QUINT of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot and  
Representatives: DUNLAP of Old Town, MAYO of Bath, MUSE of South Portland, Senators:  
RAND of Cumberland, TREAT of Kennebec.

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

4  
6           **Whereas,** the 119th Legislature passed into law Legislative  
Document 2181 mandating the creation of 2 stakeholder groups to  
scrutinize the service delivery systems of homeless and at-risk  
youth and to devise a pilot project to more favorably impact the  
youth and report back to the Legislature with their findings; and

10  
12           **Whereas,** 2 stakeholder groups were created and did with all  
due haste and deliberation discharge their mandate, and  
scrutinize the service delivery needs of homeless and at-risk  
youth and design 2 separate pilot projects; and

16  
18           **Whereas,** both groups concluded that there are both immediate  
capital needs as well as the need for the change in portions of  
the service delivery system; and

20  
22           **Whereas,** the changes in the service delivery system are  
being made, strategies for measuring the outcomes are being  
developed, and plans to bring these outcomes back to the  
Legislature at or near the end of the pilot projects are being  
made; and

26  
28           **Whereas,** stakeholders from each region have concluded that  
in addition to the changes in the service delivery system, vital  
and immediate needs must be met and these needs can only be met  
through capital and program expenditures; and

30  
32           **Whereas,** concerned citizens within Region 2 have a strong  
and compelling interest in beginning their own stakeholder  
process; and

34  
36           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore, be it

40  
42           **Sec. 1. Additional Homeless Youth Demonstration Project created.**

**Resolved:** That an additional 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 sites in the State to explore services for unaccompanied  
youths and at-risk youths that are innovative, collaborative,  
creative and

2 youth-driven and that create a nontraditional approach to  
3 providing youth services; and be it further

4 **Sec. 2. Stakeholders' group. Resolved:** That the Department of  
5 Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental  
6 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall convene a  
7 mid-state Region 2 stakeholders' group to assist in the planning,  
8 development, operation and evaluation of the project.  
9 "Stakeholders' group" means a group composed of governmental  
10 agencies, regional children's cabinets, nonprofit organizations  
11 and Legislators and other governmental officials and education  
12 officials and other organizations and individuals who have an  
13 interest in unaccompanied youths and at-risk youths; and be it  
14 further

16 **Sec. 3. Location of project sites. Resolved:** That the Department  
17 of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental  
18 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services with the assistance of  
19 the stakeholders' group shall select project sites in which to  
20 conduct the project; and be it further

22 **Sec. 4. Purpose. Resolved:** That the project shall plan,  
23 develop and deliver services at the project sites that address  
24 the issues and needs of unaccompanied youths and at-risk youths.  
25 These services must be innovative, creative, collaborative and  
26 youth-driven and take a nontraditional approach to providing  
27 youth services. The project shall develop services that:

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

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

38 3. Increase housing for youths who are 14 years of age to  
39 17 years of age by providing a low-barrier transitional home that  
40 offers a broad array of services that are needed by the youths;

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

48 5. Develop and implement an evaluation mechanism that  
49 ensures the potential to replicate the project in other sites.  
50

2 The project shall also review whether the Department of  
Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental  
4 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services should each have a  
bureau for adolescents that delivers services to youths who are  
6 14 years of age to 21 years of age; and be it further

8 **Sec. 5. Evaluation and report. Resolved:** That, after review by  
the regional children's cabinets and consideration of the  
10 recommendations made by those bodies, the Department of Human  
Services shall submit an interim report to the Legislature by  
12 December 31, 2001 detailing the progress that the project has  
made. By December 31, 2002, after review by the regional  
14 children's cabinets and the Governor's children's cabinet and  
consideration of the recommendations made by those bodies, the  
16 stakeholders' group, with the assistance of the Department of  
Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental  
18 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, shall draft an  
evaluation of the activities at each project site, including what  
20 services or approaches have worked or have not worked. The  
evaluation must discuss areas in the development and delivery of  
22 youth services that need improvement along with any  
recommendations concerning the development or delivery of youth  
24 services by the Department of Human Services and the Department  
of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse  
26 Services. The project must collect and maintain information on  
the ages of the youth served, including as separate categories  
28 youth under 12 years of age and youth 12 to 14 years of age. The  
evaluation must provide information on the situations and needs  
of youths in different age groups. The evaluation must describe  
30 the development of a comprehensive community plan for providing  
residential, educational, health, career development and social  
32 services to homeless youth. The evaluation must also describe  
the measurable outcomes of the project at the site, including the  
34 services provided, the number of youths served and other  
statistics that the stakeholders' group determines are  
36 significant. The Department of Human Services shall report the  
evaluation and recommendations of the stakeholders' group to the  
38 Legislature by February 1, 2002. Following approval of the  
community plan by the Commissioner of Human Services and the  
40 Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance  
Abuse Services, the Department of Human Services shall proceed to  
42 implement the community plan; and be it further

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

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

50

2000-01

2	<b>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</b>	
4	<b>Homeless Youth Demonstration</b>	
	<b>Project</b>	
6	All Other	\$150,000
8	Provides funds to operate	
10	project sites that will	
	deliver services to	
12	unaccompanied youths and	
	at-risk youths.	
14	<b>Homeless Youth Demonstration</b>	
16	<b>Project</b>	
18	Capital Expenditures	1,800,000
20	Provides \$900,000 to Region 1	
	and \$900,000 to Region 3 for	
22	capital costs as determined	
	by the needs of each region.	
24	<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES</b>	
26	<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> \$1,950,000
28	<b>MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION</b>	
30	<b>AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES,</b>	
	<b>DEPARTMENT OF</b>	
32	<b>Homeless Youth Demonstration</b>	
34	<b>Project</b>	
36	All Other	\$150,000
38	Provides funds to operate	
	project sites that will	
40	deliver services to	
	unaccompanied youths and	
42	at-risk youths.	
44	<b>DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH,</b>	
46	<b>MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE</b>	
	<b>ABUSE SERVICES</b>	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> \$150,000
48		
50	<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<hr/> \$2,100,000

