

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1466

H.P. 1097

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

**Resolve, to Study the Benefits and Costs for Increasing Access to Family
and Medical Leave for Maine Families.**

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative NORBERT of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator EDMONDS of Cumberland and
Representatives: CANAVAN of Waterville, DAVIS of Falmouth, HUTTON of Bowdoinham,
MATTHEWS of Winslow, WATSON of Farmingdale, Senators: CATHCART of Penobscot,
DAVIS of Piscataquis.

2 selections have been made. When the appointment of all members
has been completed, the chairs of the commission shall call and
4 convene the first meeting of the commission no later than 30 days
after the appointments are made; and be it further

6 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
benefits and costs of providing family and medical leave benefits.

8 1. In conducting the study, the commission shall examine:

10 A. The expected number of employees who would use paid
12 family and medical leave;

14 B. The percentage of family and medical leaves of absence
that employers currently fund in full or in part;

16 C. The impact of implementing a state program of paid
18 family and medical leave on these employer policies;

20 D. The impact of providing paid family and medical leave on
other state-funded programs, including temporary assistance
22 for needy families, unemployment compensation and Medicaid
payments to nursing homes;

24 E. The public health costs of not providing paid family and
26 medical leave, including the frequency and cost of deferring
medical treatment and the impact on infant care;

28 F. The impact on employers of providing paid family and
30 medical leave, including the impact on overall employment,
retention, recruitment and training costs and productivity;
32 and

34 G. The feasibility of providing paid family and medical
leave through existing systems, such as unemployment
36 compensation, or through alternative systems, such as a
state temporary disability insurance program or a family and
38 medical leave insurance fund.

40 2. In examining the questions set out in subsection 1, the
commission may:

42 A. Seek grants to fund the study;

44 B. Hold informational sessions for discussions with
46 knowledgeable persons;

- 2 C. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a
literature search;
- 4 D. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of
the public or affected persons and groups;
- 6 E. Procure and analyze relevant data;
- 8 F. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal
10 questions within the scope of the study; and
- 12 G. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or
14 governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions
related to issues within the scope of the study; and be it
16 further

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

22 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative
24 per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,
section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for
26 their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Other
members of the commission who are not otherwise compensated by
28 their employers or other entities that they represent are
entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred
30 for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it 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 March 1, 2002. 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 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.

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SUMMARY

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This resolve establishes a study commission to study the benefits and costs of providing family and medical leave benefits to families in the State.