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

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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, 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.

	Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission
2	to Study the Benefits and Costs for Increasing Access to Family and Medical Leave for Maine Families, referred to in this resolve
4	as the "commission," is established; and be it further
6	Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission
8	consists of the following 15 members:
10	1. Two members of the business community, one representing a large business and one representing one a small business,
12	appointed by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;
14	 One member from the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce, appointed by the director of the chamber;
16	3. Three members representing labor, women's groups and
18	senior citizens, appointed by the Governor;
20	4. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:
22	A. Two Senators;
24	B. One representative of the health care profession; and
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28	C. One representative from the insurance industry;
30	5. Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:
32	A. Two members of the House of Representatives;
34	B. One representative of the low-income advocacy field; and
36	C. One representative from a child care organization; and
38	6. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's designee; and be it further
40	Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first named Senate member
42	is the Senate chair of the commission and the first named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission;
44	and be it further
46	Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
48	effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
50	Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing authorities once the

	selections have been made. When the appointment of all members
2	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	benefited and cooks of providing randing and modeled reave sensitive.
10	1. In conducting the study, the commission shall examine:
	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;
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18	C. The impact of implementing a state program of paid 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
24	payments to nursing homes;
<i>.</i> .	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;
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	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
4.2	commission may:
42	A. Seek grants to fund the study;
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46	B. Hold informational sessions for discussions with knowledgeable persons;

- C. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a literature search;
- D. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of the public or affected persons and groups;
 - E. Procure and analyze relevant data;

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- F. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal questions within the scope of the study; and
- G. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions related to issues within the scope of the study; and be it further
- 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 be it further
 - Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved: That the members of the commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Other members of the commission who are not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further
 - Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That the commission shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later than March 1, 2002. If the commission requires a limited extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further
- Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved: That the chairs of the commission, 40 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 Legislative Council for approval. The commission may not incur 44 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.

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.