

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1611

H.P. 1188

House of Representatives, March 13, 2001

**Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study Parenting Alienation
Syndrome and Related Issues.**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative FULLER of Manchester.
Cosponsored by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland and
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, KANE of Saco, MUSE of South Portland, O'BRIEN of
Augusta, PEAVEY of Woolwich, TWOMEY of Biddeford.

2 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to
Study Parenting Alienation Syndrome and Related Issues, referred
4 to in this resolve as the "task force," is established; and be it
further

6 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists
of the following 11 members:

8
10 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed jointly by the
President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

12 2. Two members from the House of Representatives, appointed
jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
14 House;

16 3. One member who belongs to a statewide organization
representing parents, appointed jointly by the President of the
18 Senate and the Speaker of the House;

20 4. One guardian ad litem, appointed by the Chief Justice of
the Supreme Judicial Court;

22 5. One member from the Maine Coalition to End Domestic
Violence, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and
24 the Speaker of the House;

26 6. One member who represents the Judicial Branch, appointed
by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court;

30 7. One child protective caseworker, appointed by the
Commissioner of Human Services;

32 8. The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's
34 designee; and

36 9. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's
designee; and be it further

38 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first named Senate member
40 is the Senate chair of the task force and the first named House
of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force;
42 and be it further

44 **Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
46 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
48 authorities once the selections have been made. When the
appointment of all members has been completed, the chairs of the
50 task force shall call

2 and convene the first meeting of the task force no later than 10
3 days after all members have been appointed; and be it further

4 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall study
5 parenting alienation syndrome and related issues.

6
7 1. In conducting the study, the task force shall examine
8 the following topics:

9
10 A. Caseloads for Department of Human Services case workers,
11 the court system and guardians ad litem;

12 B. Delays in investigations of a custodial parent;

13 C. Evasion by the custodial parent of investigation of that
14 custodial parent; and

15 D. Custody issues in domestic violence situations.

16
17 2. In examining these topics, the task force may:

18 A. Hold informational sessions for discussions with
19 knowledgeable persons;

20 B. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a
21 literature search;

22 C. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of
23 the public or affected persons and groups;

24 D. Procure and analyze relevant data;

25 E. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal
26 questions within the scope of the study; and

27 F. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or
28 governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions
29 related to issues within the scope of the study.

30
31 3. The task force shall invite the court system to
32 participate in the task force's examination; and be it further

33
34 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That upon approval of the
35 Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
36 shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and
37 be it further

38
39 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the task
40 force who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative per
41 diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,
42

2 section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for
3 their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other
4 members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by
5 their employers or other entities that they represent are
6 entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred
7 for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

8 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit
9 its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
10 to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later
11 than January 15, 2002; and be it further

12 **Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the task force,
13 with assistance from the task force staff, shall administer the
14 task force's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the
15 task force shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the
16 Legislative Council for approval. The task force may not incur
17 expenses that would result in the task force exceeding its
18 approved budget. Upon request from the task force, the Executive
19 Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the
20 task force chairs and staff with a status report on the task
21 force's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available
22 funds.
23

24 25 26 27 28 SUMMARY

29 This resolve establishes a task force to study parent
30 alienation syndrome and related issues of custodial parents, the
Department of Human Services and domestic violence.