

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

R.S.

L.D. 1720

DATE: May 29, 2001

(Filing No. S-283)

LABOR

Reported by:

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 558, L.D. 1720, Bill, "An Act to Create the Advisory Commission for Persons Who are Blind or Visually Impaired"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study the Administrative Structure for Providing Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study the Administrative Structure for Providing Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

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

1. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

- A. Two Senators, one of whom is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and one of whom is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 558, L.D. 1720

2 B. Two representatives of persons who are blind or visually
3 impaired, one from a list provided by the American Council
4 of the Blind of Maine and one from a list provided by the
National Federation of the Blind, Maine Chapter;

6 2. Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House as
7 follows:

8 A. Three members of the House of Representatives, at least
9 one of whom is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on
10 Education and Cultural Affairs and at least one of whom is a
11 member of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor;

12 B. Two representatives of persons who are blind or visually
13 impaired, one from a list provided by the American Council
14 of the Blind of Maine and one from a list provided by the
15 National Federation of the Blind, Maine Chapter; and

16 C. One member of the State Rehabilitation Council created
17 to comply with 29 United States Code, Section 725 with
18 respect to general vocational rehabilitation services;

19 3. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's
20 designee; and

21 4. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's
22 designee; and be it further

23 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first named Senate member
24 is the Senate chair of the commission and the first named House
25 of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission;
26 and be it further

27 **Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
28 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
29 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
30 Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
31 authorities once the selections have been made. When the
32 appointment of all members has been completed, the chairs of the
33 commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the
34 commission no later than 30 days after the appointments are made;
35 and be it further

36 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
37 most effective administrative structure for providing services to
38 persons who are blind or visually impaired. In conducting the
39 study, the commission shall:

40 1. Review state and federal laws and funding sources for
41 services to the blind and visually impaired;

2 2. Examine the advantages and disadvantages of the current
administrative structure within the Department of Labor;

4 3. Examine the benefits and costs of alternative
6 administrative structures, including locating the structure in a
different state department and creating an independent commission
8 to administer funds and services; and

10 4. Review the administrative structures and experiences in
other states; and be it further

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

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

28 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
30 to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature before
December 1, 2001. If the commission requires a limited extension
32 of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the Legislative
Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

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

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

RWS

2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32
34
36
38
40
42
44
46
48
50

2001-02

LEGISLATURE

Commission to Study the Administrative Structure for Providing Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired

Personal Services	\$1,100
All Other	2,600

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and expenses of other eligible members of the Commission to Study the Administrative Structure for Providing Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired and to print the required report.

LEGISLATURE TOTAL

\$3,700'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

2001-02

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund	\$3,700
--------------	---------

The Legislature will require an additional General Fund appropriation of \$3,700 in fiscal year 2001-02 for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and expenses of other eligible members of the Commission to Study the Administrative Structure for Providing Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired and to print the required report.

The additional costs associated with providing staffing assistance to the commission during the interim between legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted resources. If an extension of the reporting deadline is granted and the commission requires staffing assistance during the legislative session, the Legislature may require an additional General Fund appropriation to contract for staff services.

Page 5

2 The additional costs associated with membership on a certain
3 study commission can be absorbed by the Department of Labor and
4 the Department of Education utilizing existing budgeted
5 resources.'

6

8

SUMMARY

10 This amendment replaces the bill. It changes the bill to a
11 resolve creating the Commission to Study the Administrative
12 Structure for Providing Services to the Blind and Visually
13 Impaired. Members of the commission include Legislators,
14 representatives of persons who are blind or visually impaired, a
15 member of the State Rehabilitation Council and representatives of
16 the Department of Labor and the Department of Education. The
17 commission is required to report its findings, recommendations
18 and any recommended legislation to the Second Regular Session of
19 the 120th Legislature before December 1, 2001. The amendment
20 adds a fiscal note to the bill.