

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1720

S.P. 558

In Senate, March 20, 2001

**An Act to Create the Advisory Commission for Persons Who are Blind
or Visually Impaired.**

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator O'GARA of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MAYO of Bath and
President MICHAUD of Penobscot.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§54-C is enacted to read:

<u>54-C.</u>	<u>Advisory</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>26 MRSA</u>
<u>Labor</u>	<u>Commission</u>	<u>Only</u>	<u>§1418-N</u>
	<u>for Persons</u>		
	<u>Who are Blind</u>		
	<u>or Visually</u>		
	<u>Impaired</u>		

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1418-N is enacted to read:

§1418-N. Advisory Commission for Persons Who are Blind or Visually Impaired

There is established the Advisory Commission for Persons Who are Blind or Visually Impaired, referred to in this section as the "commission," to provide input to the commissioner on all policy initiatives, laws and rules concerning the needs of persons who are blind or visually impaired and to oversee the development and delivery of education and rehabilitation, vocational and quality-of-life programs and services for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

1. Membership. The commission consists of 9 members appointed by the Governor.

A. Members must be persons who are blind or visually impaired. They must represent persons who utilize education, rehabilitation, vocational and quality-of-life programs and services.

B. A member of the commission may not have any financial or governance interest in the provision of programs or services for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

2. Appointments; terms. Statewide organizations representing the interests of persons who are blind or visually impaired may submit recommendations for membership on the commission to the Governor. By October 1, 2001, the Governor shall appoint 3 members to initial one-year terms on the commission, 3 members to initial 2-year terms and 3 members to initial 3-year terms. After the initial appointments, all members serve terms of 3 years.

3. Meetings. By November 1, 2001, the commissioner shall convene the first meeting of the commission at which the members shall elect a chair from among the members. The commission shall meet at least once each calendar quarter. Each

2 year the commission may conduct regional hearings on issues
3 related to the needs of persons who are blind or visually
4 impaired.

5 4. Reimbursement. Members of the commission are entitled
6 to receive compensation as provided in Title 5, chapter 379 upon
7 application to the department, which must fund these and all
8 related expenses of the commission utilizing existing budgeted
9 resources.

12 SUMMARY

13 This bill establishes the Advisory Commission for Persons
14 Who are Blind or Visually Impaired to provide advice to the
15 Commissioner of Labor regarding education and rehabilitation,
16 vocational and quality-of-life programs and services for persons
17 who are blind or visually impaired.
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