

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1779

H.P. 1315

House of Representatives, April 25, 2001

An Act to Create the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative QUINT of Portland.
Cosponsored by President Pro Tem BENNETT of Oxford and
Representatives: BRUNO of Raymond, COLWELL of Gardiner, CUMMINGS of Portland,
NORBERT of Portland, Speaker SAXL of Portland, Senators: DAGGETT of Kennebec,
GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock, President MICHAUD of Penobscot.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** it is critical that state policymakers receive
input from the youth of this State in order to make informed and
consistent decisions regarding issues that affect youth and,
8 ultimately, all of the citizens of the State; and

10 **Whereas,** this legislation establishes the Legislative Youth
Advisory Council to provide such input and requires the council
12 to conduct a seminar every year in August to which the
Legislature is invited; and

14
16 **Whereas,** in order to ensure that appointments are made in
sufficient time for the council members to prepare for the annual
seminar in August 2001, this legislation must take effect
18 immediately; and

20 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
22 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
24 safety; now, therefore,

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

28 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §168-A** is enacted to read:

30 **§168-A. Legislative Youth Advisory Council**

32 There is established the Legislative Youth Advisory Council,
referred to in this section as the "council."

34 **1. Duties.** The council shall perform the following duties:

36 **A. Advise the Legislature, the President of the Senate and**
38 **the Speaker of the House of Representatives on proposed and**
40 **pending legislation, state budget expenditures and policy**
matters related to youth;

42 **B. Advise the joint standing committees of the Legislature**
44 **and study commissions, committees and task forces regarding**
issues related to youth;

46 **C. Conduct an annual seminar each August for its members**
48 **regarding leadership, government and the Legislature, to**
which Legislators must be invited;

50 **D. Meet at least 6 times per year and conduct 2 public**
hearings per year on issues of importance to youth; and

2 E. Publish an annual report of its activities and present
4 the report to the Legislature by February 15th of each
 year. The council may submit legislation to the Legislature.

6 2. Jurisdiction. The council shall examine issues of
8 importance to youth, including, but not limited to, education,
10 employment, strategies to increase youth participation in
12 municipal government and State Government, safe environments for
 youth, substance abuse, emotional and physical health, foster
 care, poverty, homelessness and youth access to services on
 municipal and statewide bases.

14 3. Membership. The council consists of 21 voting members
16 and 5 nonvoting members who are Maine residents in accordance
18 with this subsection. In appointing members, the appointing
20 authorities shall consider geographic distribution and shall
22 appoint at least one member from each of the 3 service regions of
 the Department of Human Services. Members shall serve for terms
 of 2 years, except that the appointing authorities shall appoint
 1/2 of the members first appointed to the council to terms of one
 year.

24 A. The President of the Senate shall appoint 10 members as
26 follows:

28 (1) Six youths who are students in secondary schools
30 or who are enrolled in programs that lead to a
 secondary school diploma or certificate of attendance
 or a general equivalency diploma;

32 (2) One youth who is enrolled in an equivalent
34 instruction program under Title 20-A, chapter 211,
 subchapter I-A;

36 (3) Two students at postsecondary educational
38 institutions located in the State; and

40 (4) One member of the Senate whose term coincides with
 the term of office in the Senate.

42 B. The Speaker of the House shall appoint 11 members as
44 follows:

46 (1) Six youths who are students in secondary schools
48 or who are enrolled in programs that lead to a
 secondary school diploma or certificate of attendance
 or a general equivalency diploma;

2 (2) One youth who is enrolled in an equivalent
3 instruction program under Title 20-A, chapter 211,
4 subchapter I-A;

5 (3) Two students at postsecondary educational
6 institutions located within the State; and

7 (4) Two members of the House of Representatives whose
8 terms coincide with their terms of office in the House
9 of Representatives.

10 C. The members of the Children's Cabinet, established
11 pursuant to Title 5, section 19131, serve ex officio and may
12 not vote.

13 4. Chairs. At the first meeting of each calendar year, the
14 members shall elect one of their youth members to serve as
15 cochair for a term of one year. The member of the House of
16 Representatives who is the first appointed by the Speaker shall
17 serve as cochair.

18 5. Cooperation with Department of Education. The council
19 shall work cooperatively with the Department of Education
20 regarding the granting of school credit for council service and
21 the integration of council experience into the learning results
22 curriculum for leadership and government.

23 6. Priorities. The council shall set priorities and shall
24 determine the function of subcommittees, standards of conduct,
25 process, procedures and the use of technology to convene
26 meetings. Council members shall review and consider the
27 procedures and rules used by the Legislature as they may be
28 appropriate for use as models for the council.

29 7. Communication. The council may provide testimony on
30 legislation pending before the Legislature.

31 8. Compensation. Members of the council who are
32 Legislators are entitled to the legislative per diem and to
33 reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in order to serve
34 on the council as provided in Title 5, section 12004-I,
35 subsection 54-C. All other members who are not otherwise
36 reimbursed for their service on the council are entitled to
37 compensation for reasonable expenses incurred in order to serve
38 on the council as provided in Title 5, section 12004-I,
39 subsection 54-C.

2 9. Freedom of access. Meetings of the council are public
meetings and all records of the council are public records as
4 defined by Title 1, section 402, subsection 3.

6 10. Staff. The Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and the
Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service shall provide staff
8 assistance to the council.

10 Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§54-C is enacted to read:

12 <u>54-C.</u>	<u>Legislative</u>	<u>Legislative</u>	<u>3 MRSA</u>
14 <u>Legislature</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Per Diem</u>	<u>§168-A</u>
	<u>Advisory</u>	<u>and Expenses</u>	
	<u>Council</u>	<u>for Legis-</u>	
		<u>lators and</u>	
		<u>Expenses Only</u>	
		<u>for Certain</u>	
		<u>Members</u>	

20 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

22
24

SUMMARY

26 This bill establishes the Legislative Youth Advisory
Council, which is composed primarily of youth and student
28 members, to provide advice to the Legislature and its committees,
commissions and task forces, the President of the Senate and the
30 Speaker of the House on matters relating to youth.

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