

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 553

S.P. 193

In Senate, February 6, 2003

**Resolve, To Study the Needs of Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Children  
and Adolescents**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services 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 EDMONDS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative SMITH of Van Buren and  
Senators: BRENNAN of Cumberland, HALL of Lincoln, HATCH of Somerset, TREAT of  
Kennebec.

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

4  
6           **Whereas,** this resolve establishes the Task Force to Study  
the Needs of Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Children and Adolescents;  
and

8  
10           **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day  
period expires in order that the study may be completed and a  
report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative  
session; and

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

20           **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force  
to Study the Needs of Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Children and  
Adolescents, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is  
established; and be it further

24           **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force  
consists of 12 members appointed as follows:

28           1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of  
the Senate;

30           2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed  
by the Speaker of the House;

34           3. Five members appointed by the Governor as follows:

36           A. A behavioral health service provider providing  
specialized services for deaf or hard-of-hearing youths;

38           B. A behavioral health service provider not serving deaf or  
hard-of-hearing youths;

42           C. A parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing youth;

44           D. A representative of a hospital with an inpatient  
psychiatric unit; and

46           E. A representative of a public school district;

48           4. The Commissioner of Human Services, or the  
50 commissioner's designee;

2           5. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's  
designee; and

4           6. The Commissioner of Behavioral and Developmental  
6 Services, or the commissioner's designee; and be it further

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

12           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all  
14 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the  
effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall  
16 notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all  
appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after  
18 appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the  
first meeting of the task force; and be it further

20           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall examine  
22 the behavioral, developmental, social, emotional and educational  
needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and adolescents who  
24 are not receiving adequate services because of a lack of  
appropriate resources in the State. In examining these issues,  
26 the task force shall specifically examine:

28           1. Services that are currently available to serve the needs  
of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and adolescents and the  
30 ability of those providers to provide culturally competent,  
linguistically accessible services;

32           2. Demographic data of the numbers of deaf and  
34 hard-of-hearing children and adolescents in need of such  
specialized services and projections regarding the number of deaf  
36 and hard-of-hearing younger children who may require such  
services in the future; and

38           3. Proposals designed to improve the delivery of services  
40 to meet the needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and  
adolescents, including, but not limited to, the development of  
42 in-state specialty services, collaborative agreements with  
bordering states and states with specialized facilities and  
44 training initiatives; and be it further

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

2           **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members  
4 of the task force are entitled to receive legislative per diem,  
6 as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and  
8 reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to  
10 their attendance at meetings of the task force. Public members  
not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities  
that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of  
necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of  
the task force; and be it further

12           **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit a  
14 report that includes its findings and recommendations, including  
16 suggested legislation, to the 2nd Regular Session of the 121st  
Legislature no later than December 10, 2003. The task force is  
not authorized to introduce legislation; and be it further

18           **Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved:** That, if the task force requires  
20 a limited extension of time complete its study and make its  
report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant  
an extension; and be it further

22           **Sec. 10. Task force budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the  
24 task force, with assistance from the task force staff, shall  
administer the task force's budget. Within 10 days after its  
26 first meeting, the task force shall present a work plan and  
proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The  
28 task force may not incur expenses that would result in the task  
force exceeding its approved budget.

30           Upon request from the task force, the Executive Director of  
32 the Legislative Council or the executive director's designee  
shall promptly provide the task force chairs and staff with a  
34 status report on the task force's budget, expenditures incurred  
and paid and available funds.

36           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
38 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

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#### SUMMARY

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44           This resolve establishes the Task Force to Study the Needs  
of Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Children and Adolescents.