

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5-19-03

(Filing No. S-185)

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 330, L.D. 989, Bill, "An Act To Transfer Speech Pathologist Licensure Functions to the Department of Education"

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

'Resolve, To Establish a Task Force Concerning Speech-language Pathologists'

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

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

Whereas, the State is experiencing a critical shortage in the number of speech-language pathologists available to provide services in schools to Maine children; and

Whereas, the need for speech-language pathologists is expected to increase dramatically within the next 5 to 10 years; and

Whereas, postsecondary, graduate training programs and professional development opportunities in speech-language pathology are severely limited in the State's postsecondary institutions that prepare professional personnel; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force to Address the Shortage of Speech-language Pathologists, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of the following 13 members:

1. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

2. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;

3. One member representing the State Board of Education appointed by the President of the Senate upon recommendation of the Chair of the State Board of Education;

4. Four members representing the Maine Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 3 of whom are school-based, appointed by the Speaker of the House upon recommendation of the President of the Maine Speech-Language Hearing Association;

5. One member representing the Maine School Superintendents Association appointed by the President of the Senate upon recommendation of the President of the Maine School Superintendents Association;

6. One member representing the Maine School Boards Association appointed by the Speaker of the House upon recommendation of the President of the Maine School Boards Association;

7. One member representing the Maine Principals' Association appointed by the President of the Senate upon recommendation of the President of the Maine Principals' Association;

8. One member representing the Maine Association of Directors of Special Education appointed by the Speaker of the House upon recommendation of the President of the Maine Association of Directors of Special Education;

9. One member representing the University of Maine,

2 Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders appointed by
the President of the Senate upon recommendation of the Chair of
4 the University of Maine, Department of Communication Sciences and
Disorders; and

6 10. One parent of a student receiving speech pathology
services appointed by the Speaker of the House; and be it further

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10 **Sec. 3. Chair. Resolved:** That the chair is selected by a vote
of the task force membership at its first meeting; and be it
further

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14 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
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 executive director shall call and
convene the first meeting of the task force; and be it further

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22 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall provide
leadership and direction for collaborative efforts among the
Department of Education, the University of Maine System and the
24 State Board of Education to increase the number of
speech-language pathologists who provide services to Maine
26 children by:

28 1. Establishing a plan and schedule for the task force's
work;

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32 2. Meeting regularly to gather and review information and
data on the conditions affecting recruitment and retention of
speech-language pathologists in Maine schools and develop
34 recommendations for recruitment and retention of speech-language
pathologists;

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38 3. Developing a plan to support and enhance the capacity of
graduate training programs at institutions that prepare
speech-language pathologists and ensure adequate opportunities
40 for professional growth and development through the University of
Maine System and other public and private organizations;

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44 4. Examining trends related to the existing vacancy rates
in Maine schools of speech-language pathologists, trends in use
of Medicaid funding to enhance speech-language pathology services
46 and demographics of currently employed school-based
speech-language pathologists to identify current capacity and
48 anticipated need by 2010;

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 330, L.D. 989

2 5. Reviewing current licensure requirements of
3 speech-language pathologists and making any recommendations for
4 revisions to such requirements in order to ensure quality of
5 services and to increase the number of individuals qualified for
6 licensure as speech-language pathologists; and

7 6. Examining the potential for assignment of certified
8 school personnel who can provide services while being
9 appropriately supervised by licensed speech-language
10 pathologists; and be it further

11 **Sec. 6. Advisory capacity. Resolved:** That the task force shall
12 serve in an advisory capacity to the Legislature and the agencies
13 involved with the requirements, licensure and preparation of
14 speech-language pathologists; and be it further

15 **Sec. 7. Recommendation. Resolved:** That the task force shall
16 recommend to the Legislature, the State Board of Education and
17 the Commissioner of Education a plan to ensure access to
18 educational training opportunities for speech-language
19 pathologists in postsecondary institutions; and be it further

20 **Sec. 8. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Department of
21 Education shall provide necessary staffing services to the task
22 force; and be it further

23 **Sec. 9. Compensation. Resolved:** That the public members of
24 the task force not otherwise compensated by their employers or
25 other entities that they represent are entitled to receive
26 reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a demonstration of
27 financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem
28 as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2 for
29 their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force; and be
30 it further

31 **Sec. 10. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit a
32 report that includes its findings and recommendations, including
33 suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on
34 Education and Cultural Affairs, to the Commissioner of Education
35 and the State Board of Education by January 15, 2004. Following
36 receipt and review of the report, the Joint Standing Committee on
37 Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill to the
38 Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature; and be it further

39 **Sec. 11. Extension. Resolved:** That, if the task force requires
40 a limited extension of time to complete its study and make its
41 report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant
42 an extension; and be it further



121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review

LD 989

**Resolve, To Establish a Task Force Concerning Speech Language
Pathologists**

LR 1280(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" S-185

Committee: Business and Economic Development

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Legislative Study

Any additional costs to the Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the University of Maine System can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.