

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1364

H.P. 999

House of Representatives, March 18, 2003

**Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Identify the Opportunities  
to Decrease the Occurrence of Developmental Disabilities and  
Childhood Mental Health Challenges**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative LERMAN of Augusta.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, EARLE of Damariscotta, HUTTON  
of Bowdoinham, KANE of Saco, MARLEY of Portland, WALCOTT of Lewiston.

2           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission  
to Identify the Opportunities to Decrease the Occurrence of  
4           Developmental Disabilities and Childhood Mental Health  
Challenges, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is  
established; and be it further

6  
8           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission  
consists of 14 members appointed as follows:

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

12                   A. One member of the Senate. When making this appointment,  
14                   the President of the Senate shall give preference to a  
member serving on the Joint Standing Committee on health and  
16                   Human Services;

18                   B. A representative from the Department of Behavioral and  
Developmental Services;

20                   C. A parent of an individual with a developmental  
22                   disability;

24                   D. A representative from the March of Dimes; and

26                   E. A representative from the National Association for the  
Mentally Ill of Maine;

28           2. Eight members appointed by the Speaker of the House as  
30           follows:

32                   A. Three members of the House of Representatives. When  
making these appointments, the Speaker of the House shall  
34                   give preference to members serving on the Joint Standing  
Committee on Health and Human Services;

36                   B. A representative from the Department of Human Services;

38                   C. A parent of an individual with a mental health challenge;

40                   D. A representative from the Maine Parent Federation;

42                   E. A representative of the Maine Children's Alliance; and

44                   F. A representative from the Autism Society of Maine; and

46           3. One member appointed by the Governor as follows:

48                   A. A representative from the Children's Cabinet; and be it  
50                   further

2           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the Senate member is the  
Senate chair of the commission and the first-named House of  
4 Representatives member is the House chair of the commission; and  
be it further

6  
8           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That  
all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the  
effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall  
10 notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all  
appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after  
12 appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the  
first meeting of the commission; and be it further

14  
16           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall gather  
information from public and private entities and from parents of  
children with developmental disabilities and mental health  
18 challenges to identify opportunities to decrease the occurrence  
of developmental disabilities and childhood mental health  
20 challenges, to set goals and to review the effectiveness of early  
intervention programs; and be it further

22  
24           **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the  
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and  
26 be it further

28           **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That legislative members are  
entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement  
30 for travel and other necessary expenses for their attendance at  
authorized meetings of the commission. Public members not  
32 otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities whom  
they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary  
34 expenses and, upon a demonstration of financial hardship, a per  
diem equal to the legislative per diem for their attendance at  
36 authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

38           **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit a  
report that includes its findings and recommendations, including  
40 suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health  
and Human Services and the Legislative Council by January 15,  
42 2004. The commission is authorized to introduce legislation.  
Following receipt and review of the report, the Joint Standing  
44 Committee on Health and Human Services may report out a bill to  
the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature; and be it  
46 further

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

6           **Sec. 10. Commission budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the  
commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall  
8 administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after its  
first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and  
10 proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The  
commission may not incur expenses that would result in the  
12 commission's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from  
the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
14 shall promptly provide the commission chairs and staff with a  
status report on the commission budget, expenditures incurred and  
16 paid and available funds.

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### SUMMARY

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This resolve establishes the Commission to Identify the  
22 Opportunities to Decrease the Occurrence of Developmental  
Disabilities and Childhood Mental Health Challenges .