

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1208

S.P. 422

In Senate, March 10, 2005

**Resolve, Creating a Working Group To Study the High Rate of
Suicide in Maine**

(EMERGENCY)

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 SCHNEIDER of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLER of Somerville and
Senators: MARTIN of Aroostook, MAYO of Sagadahoc, ROSEN of Hancock,
Representatives: BARSTOW of Gorham, CAIN of Orono, MAKAS of Lewiston, PINGREE of
North Haven, WEBSTER of Freeport.

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 Working Group to Study
the High Rate of Suicide in Maine; and

8 **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

12
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

18
20 **Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved:** That the Working
Group to Study the High Rate of Suicide in Maine, referred to in
this resolve as "the working group," is established; and be it
further

22
24 **Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved:** That the working
group consists of 11 members appointed as follows:

26
28 1. One member from the Senate, appointed by the President
of the Senate;

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

32
34 3. Three members representing suicide prevention groups, 2
appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the
Speaker of the House;

36
38 4. One member who is a guidance counselor, appointed by the
President of the Senate;

40 5. One member who is a medical person knowledgeable about
drugs appointed by the Speaker of the House;

42
44 6. One member who is suicide counselor, appointed by the
President of the Senate;

46 7. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the
commissioner's designee; and

48
50 8. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
and be it further

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

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

14 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall hold
15 meetings at various locations in the State to be determined by
16 the chairs. The working group shall develop a statewide
17 strategic plan to address the suicide problem in the State. In
18 conducting its study, the working group shall:

19 1. Establish a statewide preventative mentoring and buddy
20 program to help troubled individuals;

21 2. Develop or strengthen statewide communications on the
22 topic;

23 3. Develop a media plan; and

24 4. Establish a yearly conference; and be it further

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

29 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members
30 of the working group are entitled to receive the legislative per
31 diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section
32 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses
33 related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the working
34 group. Public members not otherwise compensated by their
35 employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to
36 receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a
37 demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the
38 legislative per diem for their attendance at authorized meetings
39 of the working group; and be it further

40 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 7,
41 2005, the working group shall submit a report that includes its

2 findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation,
3 for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
4 Human Services and the Legislative Council. The working group is
5 not authorized to introduce legislation. Following receipt and
6 review of the report, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
7 Human Services may report out a bill to the Second Regular
8 Session of the 122nd Legislature; and be it further

9
10 **Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved:** That, if the working group
11 requires a limited extension of time to complete its study and
12 make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which
13 may grant an extension; and be it further

14 **Sec. 10. Working group budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of
15 the working group, with assistance from the working group staff,
16 shall administer the working group's budget. Within 10 days
17 after its first meeting, the working group shall present a work
18 plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its
19 approval. The working group may not incur expenses that would
20 result in the working group's exceeding its approved budget.
21 Upon request from the working group, the Executive Director of
22 the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the working group
23 chairs and staff with a status report on the working group
24 budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

25 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
26 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.
27

30 SUMMARY

31 This resolve establishes a working group to study the high
32 rate of suicide in Maine. The working group shall submit its
33 report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
34 Services by December 7, 2005.