

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1678

S.P. 624

In Senate, May 19, 2005

**An Act To Replace the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness
and Housing Opportunities with the Statewide Homeless Council**

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested
and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President EDMONDS of Cumberland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Speaker RICHARDSON of Brunswick and
Senators: BROMLEY of Cumberland, DOW of Lincoln, Representatives: BEAUDETTE of
Biddeford, BLANCHETTE of Bangor, FISCHER of Presque Isle, RECTOR of Thomaston,
SMITH of Monmouth, TARDY of Newport.

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

4 PART A

6 Sec. A-1. 30-A MRSA c. 202, sub-c. 5, as amended, is repealed.

8 Sec. A-2. 30-A MRSA c. 202, sub-c. 5-A is enacted to read:

10 SUBCHAPTER 5-A

12 STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNCIL

14 §5046. Statewide Homeless Council created

16 The Statewide Homeless Council, established in accordance
18 with Title 5, chapter 379, shall serve as an advisory committee
20 with respect to the administration and implementation of this
chapter to the state authority, the Governor and the Legislature.

22 §5047. Membership; appointment; terms of office; chair

24 1. Membership; chair. The council consists of 11 members
appointed as follows:

26 A. Six members appointed by the Governor, 2 from each of 3
28 regional homeless councils, based on nominations provided by
the 3 regional homeless councils;

30 B. The Director of the Maine State Housing Authority;

32 C. Three members appointed jointly by the President of the
34 Senate and the Speaker of the House, one from each of 3
regional homeless councils, based on nominations provided by
36 the 3 regional homeless councils; and

38 D. One member representing the Office of the Governor, who
serves as the chair.

40 2. Term of office. Members of the council appointed jointly
42 by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House serve
3-year terms and serve at the pleasure of the President of the
44 Senate and the Speaker of the House. Members of the council
appointed by the Governor serve 2-year terms and serve at the
46 pleasure of the Governor.

48 A. Members serve until their successors are appointed and
qualified.

50 B. The appointing authorities shall fill a vacancy for the
balance of an unexpired term in the same manner as the

2 appointment was originally filled, except as otherwise
3 provided.

4 3. Staff. The state authority shall provide staff support
5 to the council.

6 **§5048. Duties**

7 The council shall advise the state authority with respect to
8 the implementation of this chapter and the development of
9 affordable housing. The council shall:

10 1. Provide leadership. Provide leadership in efforts to
11 end homelessness and provide support to the regional homeless
12 councils by ensuring access to senior-level government officials
13 and the Office the Governor;

14 2. Educate. Develop and coordinate an education campaign
15 regarding homelessness;

16 3. Serve as coordinator of information. Serve as a
17 coordinator of information and communication among state agencies
18 and among the state, municipal and private sectors with respect
19 to this chapter. In carrying out this duty, the council shall:

20 A. Review proposed legislative changes, system changes and
21 resource recommendations from the regional homeless councils
22 and compile the regional reports into a single statewide
23 report; and

24 B. Serve as a liaison with the federal Interagency Council
25 on Homeless and recommend any necessary changes;

26 4. Assess statewide needs. With assistance from regional
27 homeless councils, develop estimates of statewide resource needs;

28 5. Identify potential resources. Identify new funding
29 opportunities through private and public sources and assist in
30 disseminating this information to regional homeless councils
31 along with available grant opportunities;

32 6. Assistance to homeless. In cooperation with the state
33 authority, identify the resources available to and ways to
34 increase access to services to the homeless and persons with
35 special needs, identify the gaps in delivery services to this
36 population and make recommendations concerning the policies and
37 programs serving this population; and

2 7. Review, monitor and implement plans. On an annual basis,
3 review and comment on plans submitted pursuant to Title 34-B,
4 section 1221, and propose amendments and updates to and implement
5 a plan to end homelessness.

6 **Sec. A-3. Transition; completion of terms.** Notwithstanding the
7 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5047, subsection 2,
8 members of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing
9 Opportunities on the effective date of this Act continue to serve
10 out the remainder of their terms on the Statewide Homeless
11 Council as representatives of the regional homeless councils of
12 which they are members.

14 **PART B**

16 **Sec. B-1. 5 MRSA §12004-L, sub-§6,** as enacted by PL 1989, c.
17 878, Pt. A, §19, is repealed.

20 **Sec. B-2. 5 MRSA §12004-L, sub-§13** is enacted to read:

22 13. Statewide Not 30-A MRSA §5046
23 Homeless Council Authorized

24 **Sec. B-3. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶U,** as amended by PL 1993,
25 c. 359, Pt. B, §2, is further amended to read:

28 ~~U. Consult with the Interagency-Task-Force-on-Homelessness~~
29 ~~and--Housing--Opportunities,--as--defined--in--chapter--202,~~
30 ~~section--5002~~ Statewide Homeless Council, established
31 pursuant to Title 30-A, section 5046, with respect to the
32 implementation of housing programs to make the best use of
33 resources and make the greatest impact on the affordable
34 housing crisis;

36 **Sec. B-4. 30-A MRSA §5002, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

38 4-A. Council. "Council" means the Statewide Homeless
39 Council.

40 **Sec. B-5. 30-A MRSA §5002, sub-§9,** as enacted by PL 1989, c.
41 601, Pt. B, §4, is repealed.

44 **Sec. B-6. 30-A MRSA §5023, sub-§10,** as amended by PL 1991, c.
45 610, §16, is further amended to read:

46 **10. Consult with council.** Consult with the ~~interagency~~
47 ~~task--force~~ council with respect to the implementation of this
48 subchapter and the projects to be funded under this subchapter.

2 **Sec. B-7. 30-A MRSA §5031, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1991, c.
610, §17, is further amended to read:

4
6 **1. Consultation.** The state authority shall consult with
the ~~interagency--task--force~~ council with respect to the
implementation of this subchapter.

8
10 **Sec. B-8. 30-A MRSA §5051**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 610,
§21, is further amended to read:

12 **§5051. Administration and implementation**

14 The state authority, in consultation with the ~~interagency~~
~~task--force~~ council, shall administer this subchapter to address
16 residential deteriorating areas and to restore these areas to
decent, sanitary and safe residential neighborhoods.

18
20 **Sec. B-9. 30-A MRSA §5052, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1991, c.
610, §21, is further amended to read:

22 The state authority, in consultation with the ~~interagency~~
~~task--force~~ council, may establish 4 demonstration housing
24 opportunity zones, each comprised of a different municipality or
portion of a municipality. These demonstration zones serve as a
26 means of determining the effectiveness of zones as a tool
stimulating residential revitalization in deteriorating
28 neighborhoods.

30 **Sec. B-10. 30-A MRSA §5053, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1991, c.
610, §21, is further amended to read:

32 The state authority, in consultation with the ~~interagency~~
34 ~~task--force~~ council, may:

36 **Sec. B-11. 30-A MRSA §5054, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1989, c.
601, Pt. B, §4, is amended to read:

38
40 **1. Work with council.** Work with the ~~interagency-task-force~~
council and the Commissioner of Public Safety to coordinate the
42 resources of state agencies to be applied to the zones,
including, but not limited to:

44 A. Job training programs;

46 B. Educational and vocational training;

48 C. Child care assistance; and

50 D. Crime prevention programs;

2 **Sec. B-12. 30-A MRSA §5054, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1991, c.
610, §23, is further amended to read:

4
6 **5. Analyze problems and causes of problems that create
residential blight.** In implementing this subsection, the
7 ~~interagency-task-force~~ council and the state authority shall
8 monitor the 4 demonstration zones and develop findings and
9 recommendations concerning neighborhood deterioration and
10 revitalization; and

12 **Sec. B-13. 30-A MRSA §5055, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1991, c.
871, §6, is further amended to read:

14
16 The state authority and the ~~interagency-task-force~~ council
shall develop models for the revitalization of deteriorating
17 residential areas in urban areas based on the results of the
18 study and monitoring of the demonstration zones as provided in
19 section 5052. The state authority and the ~~interagency-task-force~~
20 council shall review and evaluate the plans and programs applied
to the demonstration zones and report their preliminary findings
21 and recommendations to the Governor and the joint standing
committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing
22 matters by December 30, 1992 and December 30, 1993, with a final
23 report to be submitted by December 30, 1994. This final report
24 must include:

26
28 **Sec. B-14. 34-B MRSA §1221, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1997, c.
643, Pt. XX, §4, is amended to read:

30
32 The regional housing coordinator for each region shall
convene a working group annually to develop a plan that states
33 how mental health or substance abuse services needed by
34 individuals using homeless shelters will be provided. Each
working group shall submit a plan annually to the local quality
35 improvement council established pursuant to section 3607. The
local quality improvement council shall review the plan and
36 submit it, with any suggested changes, to the ~~Interagency-Task
Force--on--Homelessness--and--Housing--Opportunities~~ Statewide
37 Homeless Council, established pursuant to Title 30-A, section
38 ~~5041~~ 5046.

44 SUMMARY

46 Part A of this bill replaces the Interagency Task Force on
Homelessness and Housing Opportunities with the Statewide
47 Homeless Council, whose membership is designed to better
coordinate and establish statewide policies on homelessness.
48 This bill specifies that current members of the Interagency Task
50

2 Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities continue to serve
out the remainder of their terms as representatives of the
regional homeless councils of which they are members.

4

6 Part B of this bill corrects cross-references to the
Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities.