

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/9/07

L.D. 755
(Filing No. H-216)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 576, L.D. 755, Bill, "An Act To Ensure the Success of All Maine Families through Early Care and Education"

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

'Resolve, To Create the Commission To Develop a Strategic Priorities Plan for Maine's Young Children'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting 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, there have been reports and efforts highlighting the importance of early child care and education in Maine since the mid-1990s; and

Whereas, strong scientific evidence supports the conclusion that 90% of brain development occurs before 5 years of age; and

Whereas, the "Start ME Right," "Invest in ME Now!" and other initiatives have come before the Legislature in various bills and formats; and

Whereas, State Government faces serious fiscal challenges that require difficult choices to establish spending priorities; and

Whereas, a strategic investment plan is needed and must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the plan may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. 015

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 576, L.D. 755

1 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Develop a
2 Strategic Priorities Plan for Maine's Young Children, referred to in this resolve as "the
3 commission," is established; and be it further

4 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
5 13 members appointed as follows:

6 1. Three members of the Senate including 2 members from the majority party and
7 one member from the minority party, appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
8 whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, one of
9 whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and one of whom serves on
10 the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development;

11 2. Five members of the House of Representatives, including 3 members from the
12 majority party and 2 members from the minority party, appointed by the Speaker of the
13 House, one of whom has significant experience working on public policy issues affecting
14 children, one of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
15 Services, one of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
16 Cultural Affairs, one of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and
17 one of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and
18 Economic Development;

19 3. One member representing a business that offers a comprehensive child care
20 benefit and who has focused on the interaction between early care and education and
21 economic development, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

22 4. One member representing organized labor with an expertise in early child care and
23 education and an understanding of its relationship to opportunities for women and
24 families, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

25 5. One member representing academia, business or a public policy organization with
26 experience as an actuary or economist who has analyzed the interactions between
27 economic development, early care and education and early child brain development,
28 appointed by the President of the Senate;

29 6. One member representing child care providers or early child care and education,
30 appointed by the President of the Senate; and

31 7. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee; and be it further

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

35 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
36 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
37 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
38 Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment
39 of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission,
40 which must be no later than September 1, 2007; and be it further

41 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 576, L.D. 755

1 1. Work with experts in the field and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
2 Cultural Affairs to evaluate information from existing early childhood task forces, reports
3 and scientific data on brain development;

4 2. Identify the current and future economic needs of employers and parents and the
5 links to early child care and education;

6 3. Hold necessary meetings involving parents, providers of all levels of child care,
7 representatives of business, health experts and economists;

8 4. Evaluate and review best practices related to parenting education, parent coaching
9 and home visit programs in consultation with the Maine Children's Trust or its designee;

10 5. Examine the multiple levels of relationship between early childhood brain
11 development and the needs of parents and employers;

12 6. Take into account the need for the State to receive its best return on the investment
13 of tax dollars;

14 7. Consult with people involved in the initiatives "Start ME Right" and "Invest in
15 ME Now!"; and

16 8. Consider the recommendations from the Task Force on Early Childhood and from
17 the report entitled "Invest Early in Maine: A Working Plan for Humane Early Childhood
18 Systems"; and be it further

19 **Sec. 6. Investment strategy and plan. Resolved:** That the commission shall,
20 by taking findings from the activities under section 5 into account, recommend a
21 comprehensive 3-year investment strategy and plan that will identify:

22 1. The amount of the investment each year;

23 2. The prioritization of programs, both new and existing, to be invested in;

24 3. The expected outcomes for children and the economy;

25 4. A timeline for those outcomes; and

26 5. Funding sources, including, but not limited to, current resources that need to be
27 shifted, new funds and alternate funding sources that are needed; and be it further

28 **Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
29 necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

30 **Sec. 8. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members of the
31 commission are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine
32 Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary
33 expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Public
34 members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they
35 represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a
36 demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their
37 attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

38 **Sec. 9. Strategic investment plan. Resolved:** That, no later than December 1,
39 2007, the commission shall submit a report that includes its strategic investment plan,
40 including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on

R. 018

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 576, L.D. 755

1 Health and Human Services, the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and
2 Economic Development, the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, the Joint Standing
3 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on
4 Appropriations and Financial Affairs, as well as to the Legislative Council. The
5 commission is not authorized to introduce legislation. Following receipt and review of
6 the report, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services may submit a
7 bill to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature; and be it further

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

11 **Sec. 11. Commission budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the commission,
12 with assistance from staff, shall administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after
13 its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the
14 Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not incur expenses that would
15 result in exceeding the approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the
16 Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the commission
17 chairs and staff with a status report on the commission budget, expenditures incurred and
18 paid and available funds.

19 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
20 legislation takes effect when approved.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This amendment changes the legislation from an act to a resolve, changes the title and
23 makes the resolve emergency legislation. It establishes a 13-member commission that
24 includes 8 Legislators and 3 members of the public representing business, organized labor
25 and child care providers and a 4th public representative with experience as an actuary or
26 economist who has analyzed the relationship between early childhood development and
27 economic development. The commission is charged with: working with experts on the
28 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to evaluate existing
29 information from task forces, reports and other scientific data on early childhood and
30 brain development; identifying the current and future economic needs of employers and
31 parents and the links to early child care and education; involving parents, providers of all
32 levels of child care, representatives of business, health experts and economists; evaluating
33 and reviewing, in consultation with the Maine Children's Trust, best practices related to
34 parenting education, coaching and home visit programs; examining the multiple levels of
35 relationship between early childhood brain development and the needs of parents and
36 employers; considering the need for the State to receive its best return on the investment
37 of tax dollars; consulting with people involved in the initiatives "Start ME Right" and
38 "Invest in ME Now!"; and considering the recommendations from the Task Force on
39 Early Childhood and from the report entitled "Invest Early in Maine: A Working Plan for
40 Humane Early Childhood Systems." The commission is charged with considering all of
41 this information and developing a 3-year investment strategy that will identify the amount
42 of the investment each year; prioritize programs, both new and existing, to be invested in;
43 identify expected outcomes for children and the economy; develop a timeline for those
44 outcomes; and identify funding sources, including, but not limited to, current resources

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 576, L.D. 755

1 that need to be shifted, new funds and alternate funding sources that are needed. The
2 commission shall provide a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
3 Services, the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic
4 Development, the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, the Joint Standing Committee
5 on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations
6 and Financial Affairs; as well as to the Legislative Council. The commission is not
7 authorized to introduce legislation. Following receipt and review of the report, the Joint
8 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services may submit a bill to the Second
9 Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 755

LR 1126(02)

An Act To Ensure the Success of All Maine Families through Early Care and Education

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of the Early Childhood Priorities Commission are projected to be \$5,380 in fiscal year 2007-08. The Legislature's proposed budget includes \$30,000 in fiscal year 2007-08 for legislative studies. Whether the amount is sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs associated with providing staffing assistance to the commission during the interim between legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted resources.