

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1110

S.P. 362

March 6, 2007

An Act To Create the Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security

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 President EDMONDS of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-G** is enacted to read:

3 **6-G.**

4 <u>Economic</u>	<u>Maine Council on</u>	<u>Legislative per</u>	<u>5 MRSA §13171</u>
5 <u>Development</u>	<u>Poverty and</u>	<u>diem for</u>	
6	<u>Economic</u>	<u>appointed</u>	
7	<u>Security</u>	<u>members plus</u>	
8		<u>expenses</u>	

9 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA c. 391** is enacted to read:

10 **CHAPTER 391**

11 **POVERTY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY**

12 **§13171. Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security**

13 The Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security, as established in Title 5,
14 section 12004-I, subsection 6-G and referred to in this section as "the council," advises
15 the Governor on ending poverty and providing economic security to disadvantaged
16 citizens in the State.

17 **1. Membership; terms; meetings; removal.** The council consists of 11 members.
18 Of the 11 members, 9 must be members appointed by the Governor, including 2 members
19 representing the business community, 2 members representing nonprofit agencies, 2
20 members representing faith-based organizations and 3 members from the general public.
21 In addition to the members appointed by the Governor, one member must be the
22 Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee and one
23 member must be the Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee.

24 The members shall elect the chair from the membership by majority vote of the
25 membership at the first meeting of the council. The chair serves for the duration of that
26 member's term unless a majority of the membership elects another chair. At the end of
27 the chair's term as member, the membership shall elect a succeeding chair by majority
28 vote of the membership.

29 Members serve for a term of 2 years. At the end of a term an outgoing member serves
30 until a successor has been appointed. A member may not serve more than 2 consecutive
31 terms.

32 The council shall meet at least annually to conduct business and to elect officers. A
33 quorum consists of at least 4 members. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members
34 present is necessary to decide any business brought before the council.

35 A member may be removed by the Governor for:

36 A. Failure to attend council meetings;

- 1 B. Ceasing to represent the interest delineated in this subsection;
- 2 C. Moving out of the State; or
- 3 D. Cause, as determined by the Governor.

4 **2. Duties of council. The council shall:**

5 A. Identify elements in the structure of government and society that are causing
6 people to live in poverty;

7 B. Study public and private resources that may be used in direct services to alleviate
8 poverty and to advocate for changes in the structure of government and society
9 studied in paragraph A; and

10 C. Develop effective strategies to reduce poverty that can be achieved within the
11 resource constraints of government and the individual with the goal of achieving
12 financial sustainability.

13 **3. Report.** The council shall make recommendations to the Governor every 2 years
14 on how to end poverty in the State and provide economic security to citizens of the State.

15 **Sec. 3. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5,
16 section 13171, subsection 1 of the initial appointment made by the Governor for members
17 of the Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security, one member representing the
18 business community, one member representing a nonprofit agency, one member
19 representing a faith-based organization and one member from the general public shall
20 serve initial terms of one year.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill creates the Maine Council on Poverty and Economic Security, which is
23 comprised of 11 members including the Commissioner of Health and Human Services
24 and the Commissioner of Labor or the commissioners' designees and 9 members
25 appointed by the Governor representing the business community, nonprofit agencies,
26 faith-based organizations and the general public to advise the Governor on ending
27 poverty and providing economic security to disadvantaged citizens in the State.