

# 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)



# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

---

Legislative Document

No. 1758

H.P. 1224

House of Representatives, March 27, 2007

**Resolve, To Promote Alternative Schools within Existing School  
Systems**

(EMERGENCY)

---

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MUSE of Fryeburg.  
Cosponsored by Senator BOWMAN of York and  
Representatives: EDGECOMB of Caribou, EMERY of Cutler, SAVIELLO of Wilton,  
SCHATZ of Blue Hill, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland, Senator: SCHNEIDER of  
Penobscot.

1       **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3       **Whereas,** the Alternative Education Programs Committee is created to review and  
4 make recommendations for the promotion of alternatives in education within existing  
5 school systems; and

6       **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that  
7 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next  
8 legislative session; and

9       **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
12 therefore, be it

13       **Sec. 1. Committee established. Resolved:** That the Alternative Education  
14 Programs Committee, referred to in this resolve as "the committee," is established; and be  
15 it further

16       **Sec. 2. Committee membership. Resolved:** That the committee consists of 13  
17 members appointed as follows:

18       1. Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

19       2. Four members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
20 House;

21       3. One member from the University of Maine Institute for the Study of Students at  
22 Risk, appointed by the President of the Senate;

23       4. Two members from the alternative education advisory committee established  
24 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 5152, appointed by the Speaker of  
25 the House;

26       5. One member from the Department of Education, Office of Truancy, Dropout and  
27 Alternative Education, appointed by the President of the Senate;

28       6. One member from the Alternative Education Association of Maine, appointed by  
29 the Speaker of the House; and

30       7. One member from the Committee on Transition, appointed by the President of the  
31 Senate; and be it further

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

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

7       **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the committee shall conduct a review of all  
8 existing alternative education programs and how they are beneficial to youth at risk in  
9 Maine.

10       1. The committee shall:

11       A. Determine the number and types of kindergarten to grade 12 alternative education  
12 programs existing in the State;

13       B. Determine the number of students participating in alternative education programs;

14       C. Study the population served by the alternative education programs;

15       D. Review the practices that exist for at-risk youth and youth needing alternatives in  
16 education;

17       E. Determine how the alternative education programs help in raising graduation rates  
18 and lowering dropout rates;

19       F. Provide the percentage of youth who were identified as being at risk but  
20 completed high school through participation in an alternative education program;

21       G. Research local, state and federal funding sources;

22       H. Check how alternative education programs contribute toward helping students be  
23 college, work and citizenship ready;

24       I. Coordinate alternative education programs with extended learning opportunities  
25 such as 21st-century learning centers, advance placement and employment  
26 opportunities;

27       J. Identify the geographic regions in which students do not have access to alternative  
28 education programs;

29       K. Provide anecdotal data regarding the impact of alternative education on the lives  
30 of students and their parents; and

31       L. Seek professional development opportunities for staff and administration on  
32 meeting the needs of at-risk youth.

33       2. The committee may hold informational sessions and discussions with experts and  
34 interested parties; and be it further

35       **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide  
36 necessary staffing services to the committee; and be it further

37       **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members of the  
38 committee are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine

1 Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary  
2 expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the committee. Public  
3 members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they  
4 represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a  
5 demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their  
6 attendance at authorized meetings of the committee; and be it further

7 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 19, 2007, the committee  
8 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
9 legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural  
10 Affairs. The committee is authorized to introduce legislation related to its report to the  
11 Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature at the time of submission of its report;  
12 and be it further

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

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

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

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This resolve establishes the Alternative Education Programs Committee. The  
28 committee shall review and make recommendations for the promotion of alternatives in  
29 education within existing school systems.