## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1780

H.P. 1238

House of Representatives, March 28, 2007

Resolve, To Convene a Working Group To Review Statutory Language and Propose Standards To Ensure the Use of Respectful Language

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millient M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative WEBSTER of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Newfield, CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth, LEWIN of Eliot,
MILLER of Somerville, PERRY of Calais, WALCOTT of Lewiston, Senators: RAYE of
Washington, ROSEN of Hancock.

- Sec. 1. Convene working group. Resolved: That the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council, referred to in this resolve as "the council," shall convene a working group to review the terminology that is currently contained in the Maine Revised Statutes to refer to persons with disabilities. The council may propose standards to be used prospectively by the Revisor of Statutes when preparing bills that enact or amend legislative language referring to persons with disabilities. In convening the working group, the council shall invite the participation of representatives of the Maine Disability Advocacy Coalition and other interested parties. In preparing its recommendations, the working group:
  - 1. May identify terms that it recommends be designated for substitution and may recommend replacement terms;
- 2. Shall ensure that any proposal for terminology changes reflects a positive approach to persons with disabilities;
  - 3. Shall include in any proposal language that ensures that terminology changes may not be implemented if the change would alter or render ambiguous the substantive meaning of any statutory unit;
- 4. Shall ensure that any proposed language changes are not in conflict with or prohibited by federal requirements; and
  - 5. May recommend that each department, bureau and agency of State Government, when adopting or amending its rules and policies and when publishing or republishing its publications, incorporate the standards proposed; and be it further
  - Sec. 2. Report and recommendations. Resolved: That, by November 1, 2007, the council shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services the findings and recommendations of the working group, including any necessary implementing legislation; and be it further
  - Sec. 3. Authority for legislation. Resolved: That, after receipt and review of the report and recommendations submitted pursuant to section 2, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

30 SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council to convene a working group to review the terminology that is currently contained in the Maine Revised Statutes to refer to persons with disabilities and authorizes the council to propose standards to be used prospectively by the Revisor of Statutes when preparing bills that enact or amend legislative language referring to persons with disabilities.