

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

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Legislative Document

No. 1977

S.P. 771

December 18, 2007

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**Resolve, To Establish a Statewide Protocol for the Early Detection  
and Treatment of Autism**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 18, 2007. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 Senator MILLS of Somerset.

Cosponsored by Representative: STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland.

1       **Sec. 1. Screening protocol for detection of autism. Resolved:** That, within  
2 existing resources, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of  
3 Education shall jointly develop and establish a uniform statewide protocol for the  
4 screening of children between 18 and 30 months of age for signs of autism; and be it  
5 further

6       **Sec. 2. Intervention for children diagnosed with autism. Resolved:** That  
7 the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education shall  
8 jointly develop and implement through the Child Development Services System, as  
9 defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7001, subsection 1-A, a  
10 program of intensive intervention for the treatment of each child who is diagnosed with  
11 autism under the protocol established pursuant to section 1. The departments shall adopt  
12 routine technical rules, pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, to implement  
13 this program, incorporating best practices for treatment of autism as supported by  
14 evidence-based clinical trials.

15

#### SUMMARY

16       This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services and the  
17 Department of Education, working together and within existing resources, to develop and  
18 implement a uniform statewide protocol for the screening of all children between 18 and  
19 30 months of age for signs of autism. The departments are further required to implement  
20 through rulemaking a program of intensive treatment for children who are diagnosed with  
21 autism through the Child Development Services System.