

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 1990

S.P. 784

December 18, 2007

Resolve, To Prevent Domestic Violence and Protect Our Citizens

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 Criminal Justice and Public Safety 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 SULLIVAN of York.

Cosponsored by Representative SMITH of Monmouth and Senators: BROMLEY of Cumberland, DAMON of Hancock, Representatives: CHASE of Wells, EBERLE of South Portland, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, GERZOFKY of Brunswick, HASKELL of Portland, SIMPSON of Auburn.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** the effects of deadly domestic violence and its impact on the
2 State's public health system and social services system are far-reaching; and

3 **Whereas,** it is imperative that the State explore adoption of a comprehensive
4 strategy and network to address the many challenges of preventing domestic violence and
5 protecting the State's citizens and communities; now, therefore, be it

6 **Sec. 1. Review of supports and protections. Resolved:** That the Domestic
7 Abuse Homicide Review Panel, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A,
8 section 4013, subsection 4 and referred to in this resolve as "the panel," shall undertake a
9 comprehensive review of the measures currently in place to support and protect victims
10 and potential victims of domestic violence. In undertaking this review, the panel shall
11 specifically consider:

12 A. The ability of domestic violence advocacy offices in the counties of the State to
13 provide sufficient support, referrals, resources and protection for domestic violence
14 victims given current levels of funding;

15 B. The establishment of a program to provide to victims, free of charge, the services
16 of attorneys trained in domestic violence matters;

17 C. The assignment of a trained domestic violence law enforcement officer in each
18 county or town;

19 D. The feasibility of providing increased funding for safe houses and crisis
20 assistance for victims and their families; and

21 E. The feasibility of providing increased funding for free and accessible counseling
22 and support services for victims, including regular funding for support vouchers for
23 child care, housing, education and other needs of victims; and be it further

24 **Sec. 2. Review domestic violence laws. Resolved:** That the panel shall
25 undertake a comprehensive review of the provisions of the criminal code related to
26 domestic violence. In undertaking this review, the panel shall specifically consider the
27 need for:

28 A. The establishment of a statewide registry of perpetrators of domestic violence;

29 B. Increasing penalties and periods of incarceration for convicted perpetrators of
30 domestic violence; and

31 C. The imposition of measures on convicted perpetrators of domestic violence such
32 as mandatory counseling, police visits, automatic restraining orders and the use of
33 mandatory monitoring and tracking devices; and be it further

34 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the panel shall submit a report of its findings,
35 including any necessary implementing legislation, to the joint standing committee of the
36 Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters no later
37 than December 10, 2008. After receipt and review of the report, the joint standing
38 committee may submit legislation based on the report to the First Regular Session of the
39 124th Legislature.

SUMMARY

1
2 This resolve directs the Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel, established in the
3 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 4013, subsection 4, to undertake a
4 comprehensive review of the measures currently in place to support and protect victims
5 and potential victims of domestic violence. In addition, the panel is directed to review
6 the provisions of the criminal code related to domestic violence. The panel is authorized
7 to submit a report of its findings, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the
8 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and
9 public safety matters.