

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2027

Date: 3/14/8

(Filing No. H- 760)

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
123RD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1411, L.D. 2027, Bill, "An Act To Provide Parents of Children with Disabilities Access to Ombudsman Services"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, To Examine the Information, Training and Support Services Provided to Parents of Children with Disabilities'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Work group review of resources available to families of children with disabilities. Resolved:** That the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council, established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 66 and referred to in this resolve as "the council," shall convene a work group to examine the information, training and support services that are available to the families of children with disabilities regarding special education programs and special education services. The work group shall:

- 1. Review existing information, training and support services available to families of children with disabilities, including the extent to which ombudsman services would be beneficial to the parents of children with disabilities;
- 2. Identify gaps and other limitations in existing resources that limit the capacity to address families' needs for information, training and support services to effectively participate in programming for their children;
- 3. Identify potential additional resources needed to address gaps and limitations in existing resources;
- 4. Consider input gathered from the families of children with disabilities across the State; and

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1 5. Develop recommendations for changes in current law, rules or policies; and be it  
2 further

3 **Sec. 2. Work group membership. Resolved:** That the work group convened  
4 pursuant to section 1 consists of members appointed by the executive committee of the  
5 council to represent the following organizations:

- 6 1. Maine Parent Federation, Inc.;
- 7 2. Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities;
- 8 3. Maine Education Association;
- 9 4. Maine Principals' Association;
- 10 5. Disability Rights Center;
- 11 6. KIDS Legal, a statewide project of Pine Tree Legal Assistance;
- 12 7. Maine Developmental Disabilities Council;
- 13 8. Learning Disabilities Association of Maine;
- 14 9. Autism Society of Maine;
- 15 10. The Maine Transition Network that implements the transition service  
16 coordination as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 308;
- 17 11. Maine Children's Alliance;
- 18 12. Department of Education; and
- 19 13. Other organizations as determined by the executive committee of the council;  
20 and be it further

21 **Sec. 3. Convening of work group; staffing assistance; funding. Resolved:**  
22 That the council shall provide the necessary resources to organize and support the work  
23 of the work group convened pursuant to section 1, including convening and providing any  
24 necessary staffing services for the work group; and be it further

25 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That the council shall submit a report that includes a  
26 summary of input gathered from families across the State regarding the information,  
27 training and support services available to them and the findings of the work group  
28 convened pursuant to section 1, recommendations and any suggested legislation to the  
29 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no  
30 later than January 31, 2009. Upon receipt of the report required by this section, the joint  
31 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters shall  
32 review the findings and recommendations of the report and may introduce a bill during  
33 the session to which the report is submitted to implement its recommendations on matters  
34 relating to the study.'

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This amendment strikes the bill and replaces it with a resolve that directs the Maine  
37 Developmental Disabilities Council to establish a work group to examine the information,  
38 training and support services that are currently available to the parents of children with

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R. 07/08

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1 disabilities regarding special education programs and services, including the extent to  
2 which ombudsman services would be beneficial to the parents of children with  
3 disabilities. The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council shall convene the work  
4 group and provide all staffing assistance and funding necessary to carry out the duties of  
5 the work group. The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council shall submit a report no  
6 later than January 31, 2009 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
7 jurisdiction over education matters, which may introduce a bill to the 124th Legislature  
8 on matters relating to the recommendations of the work group.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
**(See attached)**

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



Approved: 03/07/08 *MAC*

# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2027

LR 3133(02)

**An Act To Provide Parents of Children with Disabilities Access to Ombudsman Services**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"**

**Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Maine Development Disabilities Council, the Department of Education and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services associated with the workgroup participation and review can be absorbed with existing budgeted resources.