

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R. O. S.

L.D. 564

Date: 4/16/9

(Filing No. H-122)

LABOR

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 402, L.D. 564, Bill, "An Act To Promote Independence and Facilitate Employment for Visually Impaired or Blind Individuals by Investing in an Effective Vision Rehabilitation System"

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

'Resolve, To Establish a Working Group of Stakeholders To Review the Current and Future Needs of Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals and To Establish Long-term Solutions To Fund Those Needs'

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

'Sec. 1. Working group to review current and future needs of blind and visually impaired individuals. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Labor shall establish within existing resources a working group of stakeholders to review the current and future needs of blind and visually impaired individuals. The stakeholder group must include representatives from the Department of Labor, Catholic Charities Maine, The Iris Network, the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Department of Education, the Disability Rights Center and other interested parties. The group shall assess the current and future needs of blind and visually impaired individuals to determine the costs of those needs and to design a solution that will work to meet those needs; and be it further

Sec. 2. Reporting date established. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Labor shall report the working group's findings, including the proposed oversight of the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 31, 2010.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that authorizes the establishment of a working group funded within existing resources of the Department of Labor to study the

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current and future needs of blind and visually impaired individuals, determine the costs of those needs and design a solution to meet those needs. The group shall report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 31, 2010.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 564

LR 1485(02)

An Act To Promote Independence and Facilitate Employment for Visually Impaired or Blind Individuals by Investing in an Effective Vision Rehabilitation System

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

Committee: Labor

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation requires the Department of Labor to establish a working group within existing resources. Because the resources within the Department of Labor that are available to conduct the study and provide staff support to the working group are funded entirely with federal dollars, the Department may not be able to provide sufficient staffing without incurring additional General Fund costs.

Additional costs to the Department of Education and the Disability Rights Center associated with participating in the required review can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.