MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

No. 1280

S.P. 461

Legislative Document

In Senate, March 31, 2009

Resolve, To Provide a Program Model for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BOWMAN of York. Cosponsored by Representative BRYANT of Windham.

Sec. 1. Department of Education to provide program model for children with autism spectrum disorder. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall 2 3 develop a program model for children with autism spectrum disorder to be used statewide 4 in elementary and secondary schools. In developing this model the Department of 5 Education shall address, in the context of the statewide protocol for the early detection 6 and treatment of autism developed pursuant to Resolve 2007, chapter 200, the following 7 issues: 8 1. How schools currently ensure appropriate education for a student with pervasive developmental disorder and how the parents of that student are included in the process; 9 2. What the current process is to ensure a successful transition for a student with 10 pervasive developmental disorder from one grade to the next grade; 11 12 3. What the current requirements are for training an education professional in dealing with a student with pervasive developmental disorder; 13 14 4. What information about pervasive developmental disorder is available to or is 15 needed by an education professional; and 16 5. What gaps in information about pervasive developmental disorder for an education 17 professional exist and need to be addressed; and be it further Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall report on its 18 19 findings under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural 20 Affairs by December 2, 2009. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural 21 Affairs may submit legislation related to this report to the Second Regular Session of the 22 124th Legislature at the time of submission of the report. SUMMARY 23 24 This bill directs the Department of Education to develop a program model for 25 children with autism spectrum disorder to be used statewide in elementary and secondary 26 schools and submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural 27 Affairs by December 2, 2009.