

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**March 10, 2011**

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# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1039**

H.P. 773

House of Representatives, March 10, 2011

**Resolve, To Create a Working Group To Make Recommendations  
To Improve the Efficiency, Accountability and Proper  
Administration of Municipal General Assistance Programs**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROTUNDO of Lewiston.  
Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and  
Representatives: CAREY of Lewiston, EVES of North Berwick, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,  
PETERSON of Rumford, SANBORN of Gorham, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland,  
WEBSTER of Freeport, Senator: CRAVEN of Androscoggin.

1           **Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of  
2 Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee shall convene a working  
3 group to study and make recommendations related to the administration of the general  
4 assistance programs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1161. The  
5 commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall convene the first meeting of the  
6 working group no later than October 30, 2011, and the working group shall elect a chair  
7 from among its members; and be it further

8           **Sec. 2. Working group members. Resolved:** That the working group consists  
9 of 9 members:

10           1. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;

11           2. Four members representing general assistance applicants and recipients from the  
12 following organizations invited by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee:

13           A. A statewide nonprofit legal services organization that provides representation  
14 with legislative and administrative advocacy to low-income persons;

15           B. A faith-based ecumenical organization representing multiple denominations;

16           C. An organization representing the interests of persons who are homeless; and

17           D. A statewide nonprofit legal services organization that provides free legal services,  
18 including representation in general assistance matters, to low-income persons; and

19           3. Four members representing the interests of municipalities or other entities  
20 administering a general assistance program invited by the commissioner or the  
21 commissioner's designee:

22           A. A representative of the municipality administering the largest number of people  
23 served under general assistance programs in the State;

24           B. A representative of a rural municipality;

25           C. A representative of a statewide organization representing the interests of general  
26 assistance administrators; and

27           D. A representative of an entity administering general assistance on behalf of a  
28 municipality or municipalities; and be it further

29           **Sec. 3. Selection of members. Resolved:** That, no later than 30 days following  
30 the effective date of this resolve, the organizations described in section 2 shall notify the  
31 Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee of the  
32 members selected for participation in the working group; and be it further

33           **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall:

34           1. Examine the administration of general assistance programs throughout the State  
35 and the extent to which the programs are administered properly and in accordance with  
36 law;

