# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/29/13

(Filing No. H-270)

3	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
4	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
5	STATE OF MAINE
6	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7	126TH LEGISLATURE
8	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
9 10	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 757, L.D. 1064, "Resolve, To Establish the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance"
11 12	Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 2 (page 1, lines 17 to 28 in L.D.) and inserting the following:
13 14	'Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 13 members appointed as follows:
15 16	1. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
17 18 19	2. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
20 21 22 23 24	3. Three members appointed by the Governor who possess expertise in public assistance programs and programs to assist people to achieve employment. One member must represent the executive branch, one member must represent municipal administrators of general assistance programs and one member must represent employers in the State;
25 26 27	4. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who represents the academic community and possesses policy and research expertise in public assistance programs and poverty; and
28 29 30 31 32	5. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House who possess expertise in public assistance programs. One member must represent nonprofit organizations and possess policy expertise in public assistance programs that help people move out of poverty, and one member must be a person who has successfully transitioned from poverty and reliance on the State's public benefit programs to sustainable employment; and be it further'
4 5	Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 6 (page 2, lines 6 to 13 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

## COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 757, L.D. 1064

'Sec. 6. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall meet up to 8 times to review and make evidence-based recommendations, including any suggested legislation, on initiatives needed to help families receiving municipal, state or federal public assistance move out of poverty to independence through employment. The task force shall identify any provisions in current state policy, law and rules that penalize or create a disincentive to work and make needed recommendations to eliminate any such barriers and propose new policies that support and promote stable and lasting employment. In performing its work, the task force shall review categories of public assistance available to residents of the State and eligibility requirements; termination of eligibility, assistance and benefits; transitional assistance and benefits; barriers to independence from public assistance; related legislative reports and academic research conducted in the State; and initiatives to assist people to achieve employment; and be it further'

#### **SUMMARY**

This amendment increases the membership of the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance from 9 members to 13 members. In addition to the task force's duties in the resolve, the amendment requires the task force to identify provisions in current state policy, law and rules that penalize or create a disincentive to work and make recommendations on how to eliminate those barriers and to review legislative and academic studies conducted in Maine. It clarifies that recommendations made to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services must be evidence-based.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



## 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1064

LR 637(02)

Resolve, To Establish the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-270)

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

## **Fiscal Note**

Legislative Cost/Study

## Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this task force are projected to be \$7,500 in fiscal year 2013-14. The Legislature's proposed budget includes \$10,000 in fiscal year 2013-14 and \$10,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 for legislative studies. Whether the amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs associated with providing staff assistance to the task force during the interim between legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted resources.

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The Department of Health and Human Services will incur some additional costs related to serving on the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance as well as providing information and assistance to the task force. These costs can be absorbed by the department within existing budgeted resources.

Any additional costs incurred by the Maine State Housing Authority related to providing information and assistance to the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.