

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 133

H.P. 91

House of Representatives, January 22, 2015

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

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative POULIOT of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senator HASKELL of Cumberland and
Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, HAMANN of South Portland, PARRY of Arundel,
PETERSON of Rumford, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SIROCKI of Scarborough, VACHON of
Scarborough, Senator: McCORMICK of Kennebec.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance is required to
4 perform its work in a thorough and deliberate manner so that legislation may be drafted to
5 encourage independence from public assistance for consideration in the Second Regular
6 Session of the 127th Legislature; and

7 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
8 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next
9 legislative session; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 **Sec. 1. Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance established.**
15 **Resolved:** That the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance, referred to in
16 this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further

17 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 13
18 members appointed as follows:

19 1. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
20 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

21 2. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
23 in the Legislature;

24 3. Three members appointed by the Governor who possess expertise in public
25 assistance programs and programs to assist people to achieve employment. One member
26 must represent the executive branch, one member must represent municipal
27 administrators of general assistance programs and one member must represent employers
28 in the State;

29 4. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who represents the
30 academic community and possesses policy and research expertise in public assistance
31 programs and poverty; and

32 5. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House who possess expertise in
33 public assistance programs. One member must represent nonprofit organizations and
34 possess policy expertise in public assistance programs that help people move out of
35 poverty, and one member must be a person who has successfully transitioned from
36 poverty and reliance on the State's public benefit programs to sustainable employment;
37 and be it further

1 13 members and must report by December 2, 2015 with its findings and
2 recommendations and suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health
3 and Human Services.