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Legislative Document

No. 642

H.P. 456

House of Representatives, February 28, 2017

Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Identify Special Education Cost Drivers and Innovative Approaches to Services

(EMERGENCY)

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor. Cosponsored by Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland, FULLER of Lewiston, GINZLER of Bridgton, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred, SCHNECK of Bangor, Senators: LANGLEY of Hancock, MILLETT of Cumberland. 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 To Identify Special Education Cost Drivers and 4 Innovative Approaches to Services will work to address the rising cost of special 5 education while maintaining high-quality services that accommodate the needs of all 6 children; and
- Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next
 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 established. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 15 353, the Task Force To Identify Special Education Cost Drivers and Innovative 16 Approaches to Services, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established; and 17 be it further
- 18 Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 9
 19 members appointed as follows:
- A Senate member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural
 Affairs, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 22 2. A House of Representatives member of the Joint Standing Committee on
 23 Education and Cultural Affairs, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- A school superintendent representing the Maine School Superintendents
 Association, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 4. A member of a school board representing the Maine School Boards Association,
 appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 5. A special education director representing a statewide association of special
 education directors or teachers, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 30 6. A principal representing the Maine Principals' Association, appointed by the
 31 Speaker of the House;
- 32 7. A teacher representing the Maine Education Association, appointed by the
 33 President of the Senate;
- A parent of a student with special needs representing a statewide association of
 parents of students with special needs, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

1 9. An advocate for students with special needs appointed by the President of the 2 Senate; and be it further

3 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the Senate member is the Senate chair and the 4 House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force; and be it further

5 Appointments; convening of task force. Sec. 4. **Resolved:** That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this 6 7 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, 8 9 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been 10 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority 11 for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further 12

- 13 Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall address the rising cost of 14 special education and the maintenance of high-quality services that accommodate the 15 needs of all children by identifying cost drivers and recommending innovative 16 approaches to serving students; and be it further
- Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide
 necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 6, 2017, the task force
 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
 legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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This resolve establishes the Task Force To Identify Special Education Cost Drivers and Innovative Approaches to Services.