

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 924

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H.P. 680

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

**Resolve, To Establish a Task Force To Study the Coordination of Services and Expansion of Educational Programs for Young Adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities To Identify Barriers to Full Societal Integration**

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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 PEBWORTH of Blue Hill.  
Cosponsored by Senator LUCHINI of Hancock and  
Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, DODGE of Belfast, DRINKWATER of Milford.

1           **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force To Study the  
2 Coordination of Services and Expansion of Educational Programs for Young Adults with  
3 Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is  
4 established to identify barriers inhibiting adults 18 years of age to 40 years of age with  
5 intellectual or developmental disabilities from being fully integrated into society and to  
6 recommend possible solutions.

7           **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the task  
8 force consists of 27 members as follows:

9           1. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Labor  
10 and Housing, appointed by the President of the Senate;

11           2. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing  
12 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

13           3. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing  
14 Committee on Health and Human Services, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

15           4. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

16           5. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;

17           6. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;

18           7. One representative from the office of aging and disability services within the  
19 Department of Health and Human Services;

20           8. One representative from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of  
21 Child and Family Services; and

22           9. Nineteen members appointed by the Commissioner of Education, in consultation  
23 with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner of Labor, as  
24 follows:

25           A. One member who represents an advocacy organization for young adults with  
26 disabilities;

27           B. One member who represents a statewide organization of parents of young adults  
28 with disabilities;

29           C. One member who represents a statewide association for adult education;

30           D. One member who represents a statewide association for career and technical  
31 education;

32           E. One member who represents the University of Maine System;

33           F. One member who represents the Maine Community College System;

34           G. One member who represents a statewide association of administrators of services  
35 for children with disabilities;

36           H. One member who represents community-based providers of services for young  
37 adults with disabilities;

38           I. One member who represents the Department of Transportation;

39           J. One member who represents the Maine State Housing Authority;

1 K. One member who represents a statewide organization that provides information and  
2 resources for parents and professionals who work with families that have a family member  
3 who has a disability;

4 L. Five members who are parents or guardians or direct care providers of a young adult  
5 with a disability; and

6 M. Three members who are each a young adult with a disability who is eligible to  
7 receive services from the State.

8 **Sec. 3. Chair; meetings. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Education shall  
9 appoint a chair of the task force and convene the initial meeting of the task force no later  
10 than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The task force shall hold a  
11 minimum of 4 meetings.

12 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall study the barriers to efficient  
13 and effective services for young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities after  
14 high school and make recommendations on targeted reforms to improve the efficiency and  
15 effectiveness of these services, including but not limited to:

- 16 1. The coordination of services provided by different agencies; and
- 17 2. The benefits, assessments, expansion and availability of continuing educational  
18 opportunities for young adults with disabilities after high school.

19 The task force shall also identify the function and efficacy of current federal and state  
20 mandates pertaining to young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities and  
21 develop recommendations to enhance the coordination of programs to ensure the most  
22 efficient and effective provision of essential services, including continuing purposeful  
23 individualized education, development of self-determination and personal advocacy skills,  
24 job training, housing, development of independent living skills including management of  
25 personal health and finances, transportation, recreation and development of social  
26 functioning. The task force shall analyze current data and retrospective data for the past 6  
27 years and provide the measurable success rate of programs providing these essential  
28 services, with consideration of the preferences, strengths and interests of individual young  
29 adults with intellectual or development disabilities and parental concerns.

30 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Department of Education shall provide  
31 the task force with staff assistance from existing resources.

32 **Sec. 6. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the task force may seek outside funding  
33 to support the work of the task force.

34 **Sec. 7. Final report. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than  
35 one year after the initial convening of the task force under section 3, the task force shall  
36 submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations for presentation to the Joint  
37 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, the Joint Standing Committee on  
38 Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

## 39 SUMMARY

40 This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study the Coordination of Services and  
41 Expansion of Educational Programs for Young Adults with Intellectual or Developmental  
42 Disabilities to identify barriers inhibiting adults 18 years of age to 40 years of age with

1 intellectual or developmental disabilities from being fully integrated into society and to  
2 recommend possible solutions. The membership of the task force consists of Legislators  
3 who serve on the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
4 education and cultural affairs, health and human services matters and labor and housing  
5 matters, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services,  
6 the Commissioner of Labor, members of organizations or associations knowledgeable  
7 about services for young adults with disabilities after high school, parents or guardians or  
8 direct care providers of a young adult with a disability and young adults with disabilities  
9 who are eligible to receive services from the State. The Commissioner of Education  
10 convenes the task force, which must hold a minimum of 4 meetings and submit a report to  
11 the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, the Joint Standing  
12 Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and  
13 Housing with recommendations on targeted reforms to improve the efficiency and  
14 effectiveness of services provided by different agencies and continuing educational  
15 opportunities for young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities after high  
16 school. The task force must also analyze current data and retrospective data for the past 6  
17 years regarding the function and efficacy of current federal and state mandates pertaining  
18 to young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities and provide  
19 recommendations to enhance the coordination of programs to ensure the most efficient and  
20 effective provision of essential services.