

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1994 to April 14, 1994

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 14, 1994

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1993

CHAPTER 60

S.P. 656 - L.D. 1825

Resolve, to Study the Availability and Sources of Venture Capital in Maine

Sec. 1. Finance Authority of Maine directed to study venture capital availability and sources. Resolved: That the Finance Authority of Maine is directed to review existing sources of venture capital in the State, to consider models of venture capital programs in other states and to consider the options for increasing access of Maine businesses to equity capital, particularly for smaller businesses and new ventures. The authority shall consider the structure and composition of a venture capital program and shall also consider potential tax and other incentives to encourage equity investment; and be it further

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Finance Authority of Maine shall submit a report on its findings along with recommendations for any necessary implementing legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing and economic development matters by February 1, 1995.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 61

H.P. 1055 - L.D. 1407

Resolve, Establishing a Study Concerning Parental Rights and Responsibilities in Cases of Domestic Abuse

Sec. 1. Study. Resolved: That the following organizations form a study group to participate in examining the issues concerning parental rights and responsibilities in cases of domestic abuse and develop recommendations to be presented to the Legislature:

1. Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services;
2. Family Law Section, Maine State Bar Association;
3. Maine Children's Alliance;
4. Maine Association of Mental Health Services;
5. Pine Tree Legal Assistance;
6. Maine Women's Lobby; and

7. Maine Commission on Domestic Abuse.

The study group shall invite participation by the Judicial Department, the Department of the Attorney General and the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child and Family Services. The study group may invite participation by any other interested persons or organizations. The Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services will serve as the coordinator of the study group; and be it further

Sec. 2. Issues. Resolved: That the study group examine and develop recommendations concerning:

1. Supervised visitations, including development of services and facilities to make supervised visitations possible;
2. Cost of providing supervised visitations, including responsibility for payment;
3. Batterers' treatment programs;
4. Effect on the judicial system; and
5. Any other issues the study group determines appropriate; and be it further

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the study group provide a report of its activities, along with any accompanying legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by January 15, 1995.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 62

H.P. 1069 - L.D. 1435

Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Education to Study the Provision of Greater Access to Public Schools for Students Enrolled in Approved Equivalent Instruction Programs

Sec. 1. Department of Education to conduct study. Resolved: That the Department of Education is authorized and directed to conduct a study of how to provide greater access to public schools by home school students. The study must provide specific recommendations for legislation and must specifically review:

1. The current degree of access to public schools statewide by home school students;

2. Issues related to access to curricular, cocurricular and extracurricular activities in public schools by home school students;

3. State laws and rules related to access to public schools by home school students;

4. Local school administrative unit policies concerning home school students; and

5. Other factors related to home school student access to public schools; and be it further

Sec. 2. Study to be overseen by committee. Resolved: That the study required in section 1 must be overseen by a committee of 11 persons staffed by the Department of Education. The committee, known as the Home School Study Committee, consists of the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee and the following members appointed by the Governor:

1. One member representing the Maine Home School Association;

2. One member representing the State Board of Education;

3. One member representing the Maine Superintendents Association;

4. One member representing the Maine Principals' Association;

5. One member representing the Maine School Boards Association;

6. One member representing the Maine Education Association;

7. One member who is a home school student;

8. One member who is a parent of a home school student; and

9. One member who is a home school support group leader.

One additional member who is chosen by the other 10 committee members serves as the chair of the committee; and be it further

Sec. 3. Study costs. Resolved: That incidental committee expenses, such as mailing, copying and printing, must be paid by the Department of Education. Members of the committee are not eligible to be compensated for their expenses; and be it further

Sec. 4. Report completed. Resolved: That the Home School Study Committee shall submit its report, including any necessary legislation, to the

First Regular Session of the 117th Legislature and the Governor no later than November 15, 1994.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 63

H.P. 1437 - L.D. 1963

Resolve, to Enhance the Development of Alternative Uses of Maine Agriculture and Forestry Products

Preamble. Whereas, the United States Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Act of 1990 authorizes the awarding of grants to public and private educational institutions and other research institutions and organizations to fund research, development or demonstration projects in the alternative use of agricultural products; and

Whereas, developing ways to market agricultural products in forms other than food, feed or traditional forest or fiber products would provide valuable economic opportunities for farmers in this State; and

Whereas, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the University of Maine and certain organized industry groups can provide leadership in proposing uses of the grant money in Maine; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Programs eligible for grants. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall review the United States Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Act of 1990, 7 United States Code, Section 5901 et seq., and shall identify public programs that are likely to be eligible for a grant under that Act. If there are no programs currently operating that would be eligible, the department shall attempt to develop programs, within existing resources; and be it further

Sec. 2. Plan. Resolved: That the department shall develop and implement a plan to apply for, or assist in the application for, grants under the Act and further identify existing or potential opportunities for alternative uses of Maine agricultural products; and be it further

Sec. 3. Public meeting. Resolved: That the department, as part of its review and plan development under this resolve, shall conduct one public meeting to which are invited the University of Maine, organized agricultural, fisheries and wood products industry groups and other related private entities; and be it further