

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 7, 1998 to March 31, 1998

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
April 1, 1998 to April 9, 1998

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 30, 1998

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 9, 1998

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
1997

**LEGISLATURE
TOTAL**

\$1,760

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 121**H.P. 1681 - L.D. 2298****Resolve, to Create a Task Force to Study Telecommunications Taxation****Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:**

That the Task Force to Study Telecommunications Taxation, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of the following 15 members:

1. One member from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, either the Bureau of Revenue Services or the Bureau of Information Services, appointed by the Governor;

2. One member from the Department of Economic and Community Development, appointed by the Governor;

3. One municipal official who has expertise in the area of telecommunications property taxation, appointed by the Governor;

4. Six representatives from the communications industry, appointed by the Governor, representing the following business groups:

A. One representative of an independent telephone company;

B. One representative of a regional telephone company;

C. One representative of a long distance telephone company;

D. One representative of a cable television company;

E. One representative of an internet service provider; and

F. One representative of a primarily nonwire-based telecommunications carrier;

5. Three members of the Senate, at least one of whom represents the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

6. Three members of the House of Representatives, at least one of whom represents the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing authorities once the appointments have been made. Within 15 days after the appointment of all members has been completed, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. The members shall select a chair from among the members who are Legislators; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall:

1. Identify and recommend methods to eliminate disparities within the present tax system among the various telecommunications industry subgroups including, but not limited to:

A. Rural independent telephone service providers;

B. Regional telephone companies;

C. Cellular telephone service providers;

D. Long distance telephone service providers;

E. Cable television companies;

F. Internet service providers; and

G. Radio paging service providers;

2. Compare the telecommunications businesses with other industry sectors and, to the extent possible, with similar businesses in other states;

3. Evaluate strategies to ensure that the telecommunications tax system is easily administered and predictable and that it provides for revenue stability; and

4. Clearly define the tax base and appropriate taxing jurisdiction; and be it further

Sec. 5. Staffing assistance. Resolved: That the task force may request staffing assistance from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services and the Legislative Council; and be it further

Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved: That the members of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and to

receive reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses for attendance at meetings of the task force upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. Other members are not entitled to reimbursement of expenses; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall submit a report together with any necessary implementing legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters, with a copy to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, no later than January 15, 1999. If the task force requires an extension, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

Sec. 8. Meetings. Resolved: That the task force may meet up to 6 times; and be it further

Sec. 9. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

1998-99

LEGISLATURE

**Task Force to Study
Telecommunications Taxation**

Personal Services	\$1,980
All Other	2,300
Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and miscellaneous costs of the Task Force to Study Telecommunications Taxation.	

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TOTAL	\$4,280

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 122

H.P. 1632 - L.D. 2260

Resolve, Charging the Children's Cabinet Agencies to Support Efforts of Parents as First Teachers of Their Children

Preamble. Whereas, the State is committed to lifelong learning that begins at birth, so that all children can reach their highest potential; and

Whereas, it is clear that the first 3 years of life represent a critical starting point for the healthy development of children; and

Whereas, research has identified numerous activities that support positive early brain development so that young children are not deprived of crucial opportunities for learning that can never be recaptured; and

Whereas, parents and other caregivers, with the proper information and support, play a critical role in providing the supportive framework necessary for the development of young children; and

Whereas, planning and coordination of services for parents and other caregivers of young children by state and other public agencies is necessary so that available resources are used effectively and cooperatively; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Fiscal plan. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Corrections, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in this resolve called the "Children's Cabinet," shall develop a fiscal plan for the expansion of existing state-funded child and family support initiatives, including Healthy Families Maine, Head Start and Early Head Start, Child Development Services, Child Care and Communities for Children, as well as a fiscal plan for the expansion and support of other initiatives such as the Parents as Teachers Program, Parents Are Teachers, Too and the Maine Humanities Council program Born to Read; and be it further

Sec. 2. Core curriculum for caregivers. Resolved: That, within available resources:

1. The Children's Cabinet shall develop a core curriculum that will be available to all Maine parents and caregivers by 1999;
2. The Children's Cabinet shall develop a training program for all caregivers and providers based on the core curriculum; and
3. State-funded home visiting services for families with children 0 to 5 years of age shall provide this information to parents; and be it further

Sec. 3. Family support programs. Resolved: That the Children's Cabinet shall study the current family support programs available to parents, identify the need and develop a plan for the creation of additional family support programs, including the designation and support of family resource centers throughout Maine; and be it further