

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FINAL REPORT OF THE  
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
JOB TRAINING ON OVERSIGHT  
OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
FEDERAL JOB TRAINING  
PARTNERSHIP ACT

JANUARY, 1985

MEMBERS:

Sen. Larry Brown, Chair  
Sen. Frank Wood  
Sen. James McBreairty  
Rep. Stephanie Locke, Chair  
Rep. Raynold Theriault  
Rep. Gary Cooper  
Rep. Ralph Willey  
Rep. Guy Scarpino

Staff:

Sarah J. Hooke, Legislative Counsel  
Lars Rydell, Legislative Assistant

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Room 101, State House--Sta. 13  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
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State of Maine  
Senate Chamber  
Augusta, Maine 04333

January 23, 1985

Rep. John Diamond, Chair  
Legislative Council  
State House, Station 115  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Representative Diamond:

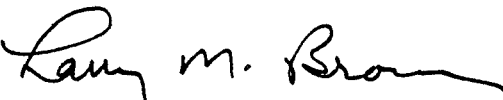
The Joint Select Committee on Job Training was established by the 111th Legislature to provide legislative oversight of the implementation of the Federal Job Training Partnership Act. The joint order establishing the committee authorized its existence until the close of the 111th Legislature. The Committee submits this final report of its activities and findings during that time.

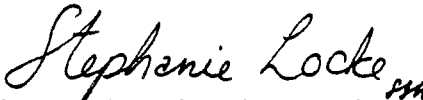
The Committee extends special thanks to Sarah Hooke and Lars Rydell of the Office of Legislative Assistants who provided special counsel to the Job Training Committee. They were self starters and aggressive in their efforts and their research on the federal Act was most valuable to the committee in formulating opinions regarding the Maine program.

The chairs also extend their appreciation to the Committee members, who gave their time to this special assignment in addition to performing their other legislative responsibilities.

We hope this report is useful to the Legislature and will be glad to answer any questions you may have on the subject.

Sincerely,

  
Sen. Larry Brown  
Senate Chair

  
Rep. Stephanie Locke  
House Chair

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FINAL OVERSIGHT REPORT  
OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON JOB TRAINING  
111TH LEGISLATURE

November 26, 1984

BACKGROUND:

The Joint Select Committee on Job Training was established by the 111th Legislature on February 23, 1983 by Joint Order (HP 663) in order to provide legislative oversight of the implementation of the Federal Job Training Partnership Act (J.T.P.A.). The Committee included representation from the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Education and Labor, as required by the Order, as well as a broad range of other interests. The 9 members appointed were:

Senate

Sen. Larry Brown, Chair  
Sen. Frank Wood  
Sen. James McBreairty

House

Rep. Stephanie Locke, Chair  
Rep. Dan Gwadosky  
Rep. Raynold Theriault  
Rep. Gary Cooper  
Rep. Ralph Willey  
Rep. Guy Scarpino

The Committee reported out LD 1512 which created a Job Training Partnership Fund consisting of federal J.T.P.A. money and allocated these funds for the next 2 fiscal years to the Maine Department of Labor. This bill, PL 1983, c. 258, signed as an emergency enactment by Governor Brennan on May 10, 1983, also further delineated the oversight role of the Committee.

The Committee has actively monitored the implementation of the J.T.P.A. in Maine. The Committee held numerous hearings and work sessions, issued two reports to the Legislature in 1983, held a statewide series of public hearings in conjunction with the Maine Job Training Council, and reviewed and commented on plans and other documents produced by the Council and the Private Industry Councils (PIC's). In addition, Committee members attended meetings of the Council and the PIC's and toured local service providers' facilities.

## FINDINGS:

Based on these oversight activities, the Committee believes that the Job Training Partnership Act is being implemented in this State in accordance with federal standards. According to statistics provided to the Committee, during the 9-month transition period ending in June, 1984, the federal performance standards and planned enrollment levels were met or exceeded in almost all categories, making Maine one of the top performing states in the nation. No evidence was presented at the Committee's final meeting on November 14 to contradict the generally favorable statistics and information presented to the Committee by the various agencies involved.

Certain problem areas brought to the Committee's attention stand in the way of optimum performance. First, if Maine residents are to be provided with efficient, successful programs for job training and job placement and with a truly meaningful alternative to welfare, there must be increased cooperation between the several Departments responsible for JTPA programs. Coordination between the Departments of Labor, Human Services and Educational and Cultural Services would increase utilization of the special strengths of each department, facilitate efficient provision of quality services to Maine citizens and adapt the services and programs of the various departments to meet the special needs of the JTPA training programs and clients.

The next problem, pointed out by representatives of all departments, is the relationship between job training and social support systems and benefits. J.T.P.A. provides almost no such benefits, while benefits from other sources are often lost if a person chooses to pursue training in order to get a job. For example, if an AFDC parent receives a stipend while participating in on-the-job training, he or she may lose Medicaid benefits for his or her children; a responsible parent clearly would not want to risk his or her children's health even if he or she wishes to obtain employment.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee does not recommend that it be reconstituted by the 112th Legislature. Federal and State laws already charge several entities with oversight of the program. Private Industry Council actions must comply with federal guidelines. The Governor and his designees, the Departments of Educational and Cultural Services, Human Services and Labor have the ultimate responsibility of monitoring the program, meeting federal standards and undergoing federal inspection. The Maine Job

Training Council is composed of a cross section of Maine citizens, including representatives of labor, private enterprise, government officials, and two legislators; it also oversees program implementation to ensure compliance with federal standards.

The Committee believes that these entities provide adequate oversight to J.T.P.A. activities in the State. Legislative representation already exists on the Council and existing legislative standing committees have the expertise to hear any bills that come before the Legislature. In particular, the Committee recommends that in the future, J.T.P.A. bills be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Education. This committee already has jurisdiction over bills dealing with vocational education and training and thus has the experience and background to also deal with legislation on J.T.P.A. training programs.

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