



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1064

H.P. 757

House of Representatives, March 19, 2013

Resolve, To Establish the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative NEWENDYKE of Litchfield.
Cosponsored by Senator FLOOD of Kennebec and
Representatives: BEAULIEU of Auburn, BEAVERS of South Berwick, BECK of Waterville, BERRY of Bowdoinham, BLACK of Wilton, CHASE of Wells, COTTA of China, CRAY of Palmyra, DeCHANT of Bath, DOAK of Columbia Falls, DUPREY of Hampden, ESPLING of New Gloucester, FITZPATRICK of Houlton, FREDETTE of Newport, GATTINE of Westbrook, GIDEON of Freeport, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GILBERT of Jay, GILLWAY of Searsport, GRANT of Gardiner, GUERIN of Glenburn, JOHNSON of Eddington, JOHNSON of Greenville, KESCHL of Belgrade, KNIGHT of Livermore Falls, LOCKMAN of Amherst, MacDONALD of Old Orchard Beach, MAKER of Calais, MALABY of Hancock, MAREAN of Hollis, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCLELLAN of Raymond, McELWEE of Caribou, McGOWAN of York, McLEAN of Gorham, NADEAU of Fort Kent, NOON of Sanford, PARRY of Arundel, PEAVEY HASKELL of Milford, POULIOT of Augusta, POWERS of Naples, RUSSELL of Portland, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SHORT of Pittsfield, SIROCKI of Scarborough, STUCKEY of Portland, TURNER of Burlington, TYLER of Windham, VOLK of Scarborough, WALLACE of Dexter, WEAVER of York, WILLETTE of Mapleton, WILSON of Augusta, WINSOR of Norway, WOOD of Sabattus.

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 on Independence from Public Assistance is required to
4 perform its work in a thorough and deliberate manner so that legislation may be drafted to
5 encourage independence from public assistance for consideration in the Second Regular
6 Session of the 126th Legislature; and

7 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
8 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next
9 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 on Independence from Public Assistance established.**
15 **Resolved:** That the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance, referred to in
16 this resolve as "the task force," is established; and be it further

17 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 9
18 members appointed as follows:

19 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
20 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

21 2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
23 in the Legislature; and

24 3. Four members appointed by the Governor who possess expertise in public
25 assistance programs and programs to assist people to achieve employment. One member
26 must represent the Department of Health and Human Services, one member must
27 represent low-income residents of the State, one member must represent employers in the
28 State and one member must represent the Office of the Governor; and be it further

29 **Sec. 3. Cooperation. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human
30 Services, other state agencies and the Maine State Housing Authority shall provide
31 information and assistance to the task force as requested by the task force for the
32 performance of its duties; and be it further

33 **Sec. 4. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
34 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task
35 force; and be it further

36 **Sec. 5. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
37 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
38 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative

1 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
2 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more
3 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
4 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority
5 for the task force to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

6 **Sec. 6. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall meet up to 8 times to review
7 and make recommendations, including any suggested legislation, on initiatives needed to
8 encourage independence from public assistance and programs funded with municipal,
9 state or federal funds to assist people to achieve employment. In performing its work the
10 task force shall review categories of public assistance available to residents of the State
11 and eligibility requirements; termination of eligibility, assistance and benefits; transitional
12 assistance and benefits; barriers to independence from public assistance; and initiatives to
13 assist people to achieve employment; and be it further

14 **Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
15 necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

16 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 4, 2013, the task force
17 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
18 legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
19 Services.

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

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This resolve establishes the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance.
24 The task force must meet up to 8 times, consists of 9 members and must report by
25 December 4, 2013 with its findings and recommendations and suggested legislation to the
26 Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.