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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1039

H.P. 773

House of Representatives, March 10, 2011

**Resolve, To Create a Working Group To Make Recommendations
To Improve the Efficiency, Accountability and Proper
Administration of Municipal General Assistance Programs**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROTUNDO of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and
Representatives: CAREY of Lewiston, EVES of North Berwick, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,
PETERSON of Rumford, SANBORN of Gorham, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland,
WEBSTER of Freeport, Senator: CRAVEN of Androscoggin.

1 **Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of
2 Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee shall convene a working
3 group to study and make recommendations related to the administration of the general
4 assistance programs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1161. The
5 commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall convene the first meeting of the
6 working group no later than October 30, 2011, and the working group shall elect a chair
7 from among its members; and be it further

8 **Sec. 2. Working group members. Resolved:** That the working group consists
9 of 9 members:

10 1. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;

11 2. Four members representing general assistance applicants and recipients from the
12 following organizations invited by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee:

13 A. A statewide nonprofit legal services organization that provides representation
14 with legislative and administrative advocacy to low-income persons;

15 B. A faith-based ecumenical organization representing multiple denominations;

16 C. An organization representing the interests of persons who are homeless; and

17 D. A statewide nonprofit legal services organization that provides free legal services,
18 including representation in general assistance matters, to low-income persons; and

19 3. Four members representing the interests of municipalities or other entities
20 administering a general assistance program invited by the commissioner or the
21 commissioner's designee:

22 A. A representative of the municipality administering the largest number of people
23 served under general assistance programs in the State;

24 B. A representative of a rural municipality;

25 C. A representative of a statewide organization representing the interests of general
26 assistance administrators; and

27 D. A representative of an entity administering general assistance on behalf of a
28 municipality or municipalities; and be it further

29 **Sec. 3. Selection of members. Resolved:** That, no later than 30 days following
30 the effective date of this resolve, the organizations described in section 2 shall notify the
31 Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee of the
32 members selected for participation in the working group; and be it further

33 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall:

34 1. Examine the administration of general assistance programs throughout the State
35 and the extent to which the programs are administered properly and in accordance with
36 law;

