



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

---

Legislative Document

No. 1111

S.P. 365

In Senate, March 21, 2017

**Resolve, To Establish a Task Force To Study the Causes of and  
Solutions to the Epidemic of Childhood Obesity in Maine**

(EMERGENCY)

---

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Representative DENNO of Cumberland and  
Senators: DILL of Penobscot, LANGLEY of Hancock, LIBBY of Androscoggin, SAVIELLO  
of Franklin, Representatives: CARDONE of Bangor, DEVIN of Newcastle, FOLEY of Wells,  
TUCKER of Brunswick.

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 economic cost of obesity in the United States has been calculated to  
4 amount to as much as \$190,000,000,000 annually; and

5           **Whereas,** the National Institute for Children's Health Quality reports that almost  
6 30% of children in the State are either overweight or obese; and

7           **Whereas,** the Department of Health and Human Services and the task force  
8 proposed by this resolve must begin their work as soon as possible in order to recommend  
9 legislation to establish and support obesity prevention and treatment programs; 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. Commissioner of Health and Human Services to convene task**  
15 **force. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall convene  
16 a task force to study the epidemic of childhood obesity in Maine. In addition to the  
17 commissioner's designees from the Department of Health and Human Services and  
18 representatives from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the  
19 commissioner shall invite the participation of interested stakeholders to serve as members  
20 of the task force, including but not limited to families that have been affected by obesity,  
21 representatives of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and  
22 representatives of the Maine Academy of Family Physicians; and be it further

23          **Sec. 2. Task force; duties. Resolved:** That the task force convened under  
24 section 1 shall evaluate the epidemic of childhood obesity in the State. The evaluation  
25 conducted by the task force must include, but is not limited to:

- 26           1. Delineating the scope of childhood obesity in the State;
- 27           2. Identifying groups that may be at particularly high risk for obesity;
- 28           3. Assessing the availability of prevention and treatment programs; and
- 29           4. A review of strategies proposed or adopted in other states and jurisdictions; and be  
30 it further

31          **Sec. 3. Task force; report. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Health and  
32 Human Services shall report the findings and conclusions of the task force, including any  
33 proposed legislation to address the task force's recommendations, to the Joint Standing  
34 Committee on Health and Human Services by December 6, 2017. The joint standing  
35 committee is authorized to submit a bill related to the report to the Second Regular  
36 Session of the 128th Legislature.

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

3   **SUMMARY**

4           This resolve directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to convene a  
5 task force to study the epidemic of childhood obesity in Maine.