



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1047

H.P. 738

House of Representatives, March 14, 2013

**Resolve, To Provide a Better Transition for Foster Children to
Independent Adulthood**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and
Representatives: Speaker EVES of North Berwick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, GATTINE of
Westbrook, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, McCABE of Skowhegan, SANBORN of Gorham,
TURNER of Burlington, Senator: CRAVEN of Androscoggin.

1 **Sec. 1. Review and analysis. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Health and
2 Human Services shall conduct a review and analysis of youth transition services under
3 the Department of Health and Human Services' foster care program. The review and
4 analysis must:

5 **1. Prior 10 years.** Identify and analyze youth transition services provided over the
6 10 years preceding the review to persons in the foster care program from 15 to 18 years
7 of age to facilitate the transition of those persons from foster care to independent
8 adulthood and the extent to which persons transitioning to independent adulthood have
9 participated in a voluntary extended support agreement, referred to in this resolve as a
10 "V9 agreement," to extend the availability of support beyond 18 years of age;

11 **2. Process for review and analysis.** Accomplish the following:

12 A. Identify measurable outcomes for persons in the foster care program, including
13 persons covered by a V9 agreement;

14 B. Determine the extent to which outcomes have been met over the 10-year period of
15 analysis;

16 C. Analyze the extent to which persons in the foster care program making the
17 transition to independent adulthood use the V9 agreement to extend their opportunity
18 to receive extended placement and other support past 18 years of age to continue their
19 education or meet their vocational or health needs;

20 D. Review recent reports on the foster care program, including reports completed
21 both within the program and by outside reviewers; and

22 E. Provide an opportunity to comment on the subjects of the review under this
23 resolve and to make recommendations for inclusion in the report under section 2 for
24 members of the public, persons receiving foster care services and support under a V9
25 agreement and providers of education and other services to persons in the foster care
26 program; and

27 **3. Identification of system strengths and needs for improvement.** Identify
28 strengths of the youth transition services system and where policy and administrative
29 changes are needed to improve the transition of persons in the foster care program to
30 independent adulthood, including participation in the workforce, and to increase
31 participation in V9 agreements; and be it further

32 **Sec. 2. Report; legislation. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Health and
33 Human Services shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
34 Human Services by January 15, 2014 containing the results of its review and analysis
35 under section 1 and providing recommendations to improve services for persons in the
36 foster care program making the transition to independent adulthood, including the V9
37 agreement system. The committee may submit a bill regarding the report to the Second
38 Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

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SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to review and analyze services for persons in foster care making the transition to independent adulthood, including services provided under a voluntary extended support agreement, also known as a V9 agreement. The commissioner is required to submit a report containing the results of the review and analysis to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 15, 2014, and the committee is authorized to submit a bill regarding the report to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.