



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1819

S.P. 729

In Senate, March 12, 2014

Resolve, To Create the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President ALFOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MacDONALD of Boothbay and
Senators: LANGLEY of Hancock, MILLETT of Cumberland.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** Maine has a moral obligation to care for its most vulnerable
2 citizens; and

3 **Whereas,** Maine ranks first in New England in food insecurity; and

4 **Whereas,** in past years, Maine has underutilized up to \$30,000,000 of federal
5 funding that could have been used to provide meals to hungry students; and

6 **Whereas,** food insecurity has proven to negatively impact student health and
7 learning; and

8 **Whereas,** the United States Department of Agriculture recently announced a
9 nationwide expansion of its program known as the Community Eligibility Provision,
10 which increases access to breakfast and lunch for all students in low-income areas; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
13 353, the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine, referred to in this resolve as "the
14 task force," is established; and be it further

15 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 17
16 members as follows:

17 1. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
18 members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

19 2. Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
21 in the Legislature;

22 3. Six members of the public with expertise in the fields of school food service, child
23 health, child development or child hunger or related fields, including 2 members whose
24 children used or are using school food programs. Three members must be appointed by
25 the President of the Senate and 3 members must be appointed by the Speaker of the
26 House;

27 4. Two members of the public appointed by the Governor;

28 5. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee; and

29 6. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
30 and be it further

31 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
32 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task
33 force; and be it further

34 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
35 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this

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

7 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall meet 5 times. The task force
8 shall study issues associated with the creation of a public-private partnership to provide
9 expertise to school administrative units throughout the State in adopting best practices
10 and maximizing available federal funds for addressing student hunger by using:

11 1. The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
12 National School Lunch Program;

13 2. The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Child
14 and Adult Care Food Program, At-Risk Afterschool Meals;

15 3. The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service,
16 Summer Food Service Program; and

17 4. The 4 privately funded hunger coordinators positioned in the Healthy Maine
18 Partnerships districts to encourage the use of school food programs.

19 The task force shall draft a 3- to 5-year plan outlining a ramp-up of school food
20 programs throughout the State; and be it further

21 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
22 necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

23 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 9, 2014, the task force
24 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
25 legislation, as well as actions that can be taken immediately, for presentation to the First
26 Regular Session of the 127th Legislature; and be it further

27 **Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the task force shall seek funding
28 contributions to fully fund the cost of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the
29 Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund the
30 study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no
31 meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed.

32 SUMMARY

33 This resolve establishes the Task Force To End Student Hunger in Maine.