



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 362

H.P. 260

House of Representatives, February 8, 2021

Resolve, To Require the Department of Education To Form a Family Income Data Collection Working Group

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

Sec. 1. Family income data collection working group. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall form a working group to explore and recommend changes to how schools collect family income data. The membership of the working group consists of:

1. One or more representatives of the Department of Education;
 2. One representative from the Department of Health and Human Services;
 3. One representative from the Maine Education Policy Research Institute;
 4. One representative from the University of Southern Maine's Food Studies Program;
- and
5. One representative from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's stakeholder group assembled pursuant to Resolve 2019, chapter 32 to end hunger in Maine by 2030.

In addition, the Department of Education shall invite the participation of a representative from the Maine School Nutrition Association, the Maine School Management Association, a nonprofit association addressing child hunger in the State, a nonprofit organization addressing overall child welfare in the State and the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Northeast Regional Office.

Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved: That the working group under section 1 shall evaluate the methods by which schools collect family income data, including family income data that is collected by schools to secure funding for school nutrition programs but is also used for other programs. The working group shall explore and recommend means of collecting family income data other than through school nutrition programs.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, by January 4, 2022, the Department of Education shall submit a report, including suggested legislation, on the working group's evaluation in section 2 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The committee is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Education to form a working group to explore and recommend changes to how schools collect family income data, including family income data that is collected by schools to secure funding for school nutrition programs but is also used for other programs. The department is directed to submit a report by January 4, 2022 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.