

STATE OF MAINE

In House _____

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Commission on Independent Living and Disability, referred to in this order as "the commission," is established.

1. Membership. The commission consists of the following members, a majority of whom must be individuals with disabilities:

A. The President of the Senate shall appoint:

- (1) Two members of the Senate;
- (2) Two members of the public with experience or expertise in the challenges of independent living for individuals with disabilities in the State; and
- (3) One representative of a program serving individuals with disabilities who are members of a federally recognized Indian tribe in the State;

B. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:

- (1) Two members of the House of Representatives;
- (2) One member of the public with experience or expertise in the challenges of independent living for individuals with disabilities in the State;
- (3) One representative of a business that is a model workplace for individuals with disabilities;
- (4) One representative of a statewide association of providers of services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism; and
- (5) One representative of a statewide association of adults with developmental disabilities and autism; and

C. The commission shall invite the participation of the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or a designee; the executive director of the Disability Rights Center, or a designee; the executive director of Alpha One, or a designee; the chair of the Maine Statewide Independent Living Council, or a designee; and the Attorney General, or a designee.

2. Chairs. The first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

3. Appointments; convening of commission. All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the passage of this order. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more after the passage of this order a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

4. Duties. The commission shall evaluate the needs of Maine citizens with disabilities, review existing available resources and services and recommend priorities for cost-effective changes designed to promote independent living and community inclusion. Specifically, the commission shall examine the State's laws governing access to housing, transportation, public

accommodation, education and employment. In developing its recommendations on measures to improve the lives of, and increase overall community participation by, Maine citizens with disabilities, the commission shall consider the expansion of access to:

- A. Assistive technology;
- B. Appropriate and accessible housing and community-based living opportunities;
- C. Appropriate education and training opportunities to promote employment of individuals with disabilities; and
- D. Cost-effective transportation.

5. Staff assistance. The Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission.

6. Report. No later than November 5, 2014, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

SPONSORED BY: _____

(Representative PETERSON)

TOWN: Rumford