

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2358

(Filing No. H- 716)

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
113TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1719, L.D. 2358,
Bill, "AN ACT to Insure Adequate Rate Filing
Information from Health Insurers."

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title
and inserting in its place the following:

'AN ACT to Study the Necessity and Feasibility of
Establishing a Health Information Recording System.'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything
after the title and inserting in its place the
following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days
after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, increases in the cost of medical care
have resulted in increased costs to users of medical
services, increasing numbers of Maine citizens without
health insurance and record losses to the health
insurance industry; and

Whereas, the cost of health insurance has
significant impact on employers and the economy of the
State; and

Whereas, presently, the Legislature does not have
the information required to study possible solutions

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1719, L.D. 2358

1 to the escalating costs of insurance premiums to Maine
2 businesses and consumers and losses to health
3 insurers; and

4 Whereas, in order for this study to be completed
5 by December 15, 1988, work must begin as soon as
6 possible after the adjournment of the Second Regular
7 Session of the 113th Legislature; and

8 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these
9 facts create an emergency within the meaning of the
10 Constitution of Maine and require the following
11 legislation as immediately necessary for the
12 preservation of the public peace, health and safety;
13 now, therefore,

14 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
15 follows:

16 **Sec. 1. Study established.** The Joint Standing
17 Committee on Banking and Insurance shall study the
18 necessity and feasibility of establishing a health
19 information recording system. The committee shall
20 study what data is currently being collected, what
21 additional data is needed, what the source of
22 information should be, the method of collecting this
23 data, how the data should be used and the costs and
24 benefits of a data collection system. The committee
25 shall also propose a system for collecting and
26 monitoring data on uninsured individuals and mandated
27 benefits in order to determine the costs to Maine
28 businesses, health insurers, consumers and the State
29 and the impact on the Maine economy. The committee
30 shall consult with the Mandated Benefits Advisory
31 Commission as established pursuant to the Maine
32 Revised Statutes, Title 24, section 2325-B.

33 **Sec. 2. Findings.** The committee shall report
34 its findings and any recommended legislation to the
35 Legislature by December 15, 1988. The committee shall
36 report its preliminary findings to the Blue Ribbon
37 Commission on Health Care Expenditures by September
38 15, 1988.

39 **Sec. 3. Staff assistance.** The committee shall
40 request from the Legislative Council sufficient staff
41 assistance, including limited-period contractual

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1719, L.D. 2358

1 assistance, to carry out these duties.

2 **Sec. 4. Meetings.** A subcommittee of 5 members
3 of the committee appointed by the chairmen of the
4 committee, one member from the joint standing
5 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
6 human resources and 2 members from the joint standing
7 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
8 economic development shall meet up to 10 times to
9 study the issues through examination of information
10 and consultation with staff and recognized experts in
11 the health insurance field, in health cost
12 containment, in the business community and in the
13 provider community. The Senate chairman and House
14 chairman will serve as cochairmen of the
15 subcommittee. The chairman of the Blue Ribbon
16 Commission on Health Care Expenditures shall be an ex
17 officio member of the subcommittee. The subcommittee
18 shall meet once with the full committee to present its
19 findings.

20 **Sec. 5. Reimbursement.** Legislative members of
21 the committee participating in the study shall receive
22 the legislative per diem, as set forth in the Maine
23 Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for days of
24 attendance at committee meetings. All members of the
25 committee participating in the study shall receive
26 expenses as set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes,
27 Title 3, section 2.

28 **Sec. 6. Appropriation.** The following funds are
29 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
30 purposes of this Act.

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>	
31			
32	<u>LEGISLATURE</u>		
33	Study Commission - Funding		
34	Personal Services	\$1,980	\$3,410
35	All Other	6,800	5,100
36			
37	Total	<u>\$8,780</u>	<u>\$8,510</u>
38	Provides for the per		
39	diem, travel and		

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1719, L.D. 2358

1 related expenses of an
2 9-member subcommittee
3 to conduct a study for
4 the Joint Standing
5 Committee on Banking
6 and Insurance. Also
7 provides funds for a
8 limited-period
9 contractual consultant.

10 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency
11 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when
12 approved.'

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 This amendment establishes a subcommittee of the
15 Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance to
16 study the necessity and feasibility of establishing a
17 health information recording system. In addition to
18 the 5 members from the Joint Standing Committee on
19 Banking and Insurance, there will also be one member
20 from the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources
21 and 2 members from the Joint Standing Committee on
22 Economic Development. The chairman of the Blue Ribbon
23 Commission on Health Care Expenditures will serve as
24 an ex officio member. Such a study is necessary
25 because of the increasing cost of health insurance
26 premiums and increasing losses of health insurers. If
27 it is found that such a data recording system is
28 necessary and feasible, the committee will recommend
29 legislation for implementing such a system. The
30 committee will report its preliminary findings to the
31 Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Expenditures.

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Reported by the Committee on Banking and Insurance
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the
House

4/14/88

(Filing No. H-716)