

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 428

H.P. 312

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

Resolve, to Ensure the Delivery of Medicare and Medicaid Benefits.

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GLYNN of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GERRY of Auburn, LOVETT of Scarborough, SHOREY of Calais, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland.

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

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6 Whereas, the timely payment of Medicare and Medicaid
benefits is vital to the well-being of Maine residents who depend
on such benefits; and

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10 Whereas, continued delivery of Medicare and Medicaid
benefits is dependent upon the ability of the Federal Government
and State Government to make necessary information system
modifications before the end of the year 1999; and

14 Whereas, the federal and state governments did not meet an
October 1, 1998 deadline to make the necessary information system
modifications regarding Medicare and Medicaid benefits and
postponed the deadline to January 1, 1999; and

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20 Whereas, the federal and state governments did not meet a
January 1, 1999 deadline to make the necessary information system
modifications regarding Medicare and Medicaid benefits and
postponed the deadline to April 1, 1999; and

24 Whereas, the Director of the Bureau of Information Services,
within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services,
has been directed by the Legislature to submit detailed status
reports on the progress of State Government toward the resolution
of "Year 2000" information system problems; and

30 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore, be it

36 **Sec. 1. The Department of Human Services directed to report to the
Legislature. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Human Services is
directed to report to the joint standing committee of the
Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government
matters. The report must describe the department's progress
toward successfully addressing the Year 2000 information system
problems, particularly for problems related to the continued
timely delivery of Medicare and Medicaid payments to Maine
citizens; and be it further

46 **Sec. 2. Report dates. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Human
Services shall report to the Legislature as required by section 1
on June 30, 1999, September 30, 1999, October 31, 1999 and on
November 30, 1999, and weekly on every Tuesday thereafter. The
commissioner is not required to report to the

2 Legislature after the commissioner has reported that the
department's information systems successfully address the Year
4 2000 problem.

6 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

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SUMMARY

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12 This resolve requires the Commissioner of Human Services to
report on the status of efforts to correct Year 2000 information
system problems within the department.