

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/24/19

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1184, Resolution, "JOINT RESOLUTION
MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ALLOW THE IMPORTATION OF
AFFORDABLE AND SAFE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS"

Amend the resolution by striking out all of the 4th to 7th indented paragraphs and
inserting the following:

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug
Administration, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, stated on February 28, 2019 that when "an American
consumer goes to Canada and walks into a brick-and-mortar Canadian pharmacy and
buys a medicine they're getting a high-quality drug because of Canada's first-class drug
regulatory process"; and

WHEREAS, a 2016 report of the United States Special Committee on Aging found
that pharmaceutical manufacturing standards in Canada and the European Union are
"stringent and comparable to U.S. standards"; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Americans spent \$1,208 per person on prescription drugs
while Canadians spent \$833, and nearly one in three Americans have been unable to
afford the medicine they were prescribed at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the federal Affordable
and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act, which was introduced in the United States
Senate in the 115th Congress and would allow the importation of prescription drugs from
Canada and certain member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and
Development, would save Americans over \$5 billion over 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the federal Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and
Modernization Act of 2003 requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to allow
individuals to import prescription drugs from Canada upon the Secretary's certification to
Congress that such importation will pose no additional risk to the public's health and
safety and will result in significant savings to American consumers; and

WHEREAS, multiple members of Congress from both major political parties,
including Maine's delegation, have introduced legislation to increase access to qualifying
prescription drugs imported from licensed sellers in Canada and other member nations of

HOUSE AMENDMENT

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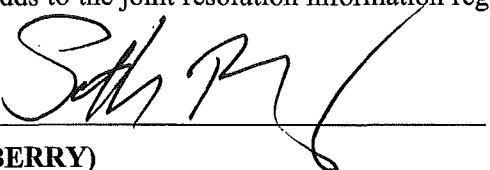
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the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, using standards for the approval and sale of such medications comparable to those in the United States, that are purchased from an entity certified by the United States Food and Drug Administration and that have the same active ingredient, strength and route of administration as drugs approved in the United States; and'

SUMMARY

This amendment adds to the joint resolution information regarding the importation of drugs.

SPONSORED BY: 

(Representative BERRY)

TOWN: Bowdoinham