

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1281

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H.P. 923

House of Representatives, March 14, 2019

**Resolve, To Create a Committee To Explore Regional Cooperation  
for Affordable Health Insurance**

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Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TEPLER of Topsham.  
Cosponsored by Senator FOLEY of York and  
Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, BROOKS of Lewiston, FOLEY of Biddeford, GATTINE  
of Westbrook, PERRY of Calais, Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, GRATWICK of  
Penobscot, SANBORN, H. of Cumberland.

1           **Sec. 1. Committee established. Resolved:** That the Committee To Explore  
2 Regional Cooperation for Affordable Health Insurance, referred to in this resolve as "the  
3 committee," is established.

4           **Sec. 2. Committee membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
5 353, the committee consists of 6 members appointed as follows:

- 6           1. One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 7           2. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
8 House;
- 9           3. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the commissioner's  
10 designee;
- 11           4. The Superintendent of Insurance, or the superintendent's designee;
- 12           5. The Executive Director of the Maine Health Data Organization, or the executive  
13 director's designee; and
- 14           6. The Executive Director of Maine Consumers for Affordable Health Care, or the  
15 executive director's designee.

16           The member of the Senate and the member of the House of Representatives  
17 appointed under this section must represent different geographical areas of the State.

18           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the Senate member is the Senate chair and the  
19 House of Representatives member is the House chair of the committee.

20           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of committee. Resolved:** That all  
21 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
22 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
23 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,  
24 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the committee. If 30 days or more  
25 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been  
26 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority  
27 for the committee to meet and conduct its business.

28           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the committee shall explore providing a more  
29 affordable health insurance option to middle-income individuals and small businesses.  
30 The committee shall:

- 31           1. Contact relevant government representatives in all New England states and inquire  
32 as to their interest in working together to create a nonprofit health insurance cooperative.  
33 If fewer than 3 states respond with interest, the committee shall reach out to Mid-Atlantic  
34 states; and

1           2. Convene a multistate conference to draft a proposal for a nonprofit health  
2 insurance cooperative. The proposal must provide greater affordability to increase access  
3 and must contain relevant data to demonstrate the feasibility of that increased access.

4           **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human  
5 Services shall provide necessary staffing services to the committee.

6           **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 1, 2021, the committee  
7 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including the draft  
8 proposal under section 5, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th  
9 Legislature.

10   **SUMMARY**

11           This resolve establishes the Committee To Explore Regional Cooperation for  
12 Affordable Health Insurance, which is required to study providing a more affordable  
13 health insurance option to middle-income individuals and small businesses, including  
14 convening a multistate conference to draft a proposal for a nonprofit health insurance  
15 cooperative.