

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1635

S.P. 524

In Senate, April 25, 2019

**Resolve, To Improve Access to Early and Periodic Screening,
Diagnostic and Treatment Services for Children from Birth to 8
Years of Age**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARSON of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland and
Senators: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, DAVIS of Piscataquis, GRATWICK of Penobscot,
MOORE of Washington, Representatives: MADIGAN of Waterville, MEYER of Eliot,
PERRY of Calais, REED of Carmel.

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

3 **Whereas,** research on early childhood emphasizes the importance of identifying
4 child development challenges as early as possible and addressing the needs of young
5 children from birth to 8 years of age to ensure their successful participation in early and
6 lifelong learning; and

7 **Whereas,** data indicates that Maine ranks 50th in the nation for the rate of infants
8 provided with early intervention services for developmental delays; and

9 **Whereas,** recent brain research has shown that it is essential to address child health
10 and well-being issues as early as possible and to provide children with services they need
11 to thrive in school; and

12 **Whereas,** the MaineCare program is underused for early and periodic screening,
13 diagnostic and treatment services provided to eligible children; and

14 **Whereas,** there is a lack of information about the capacity of state or federally
15 funded programs and services to serve the needs of Maine children from birth to 8 years
16 of age that needs to be remedied as soon as possible; and

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

21 **Sec. 1. The Department of Health and Human Services to convene a**
22 **stakeholder group. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services,
23 in consultation with the Department of Education, shall convene the participants in the
24 federally funded Developmental Systems Integration initiative to determine the capacity
25 of the State to respond to its child find responsibilities as required under the federal
26 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and to provide early and periodic screening,
27 diagnostic and treatment services, referred to in this resolve as "EPSDT services," to
28 children from birth to 8 years of age, the gaps in services and the costs of addressing
29 those gaps. The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report with the
30 findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The report
31 must include the following:

32 1. Data on the number, ages and geographic locations of children from birth to 8
33 years of age receiving EPSDT services;

34 2. The capacity of the State to ensure that all children from birth to 8 years of age
35 who require EPSDT services are located and identified by child find and receive services;

36 3. Current levels of federal and state funding designated or available to support child
37 find and EPSDT services for children from birth to 8 years of age;

38 4. Barriers that impede access to child find and EPSDT services;

