

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 3 FY 90/91  
DATE August 15, 1990

Department of Human Services  
Bioethics Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, there have been many advances in medicine and technology that improve our ability to prevent, diagnose and treat disease and keep people alive and productive for longer than ever before; and

WHEREAS, the costs of providing health care services frequently outstrip the personal financial ability of most individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, individuals, families and the State are therefore often called upon to make critical and very difficult health care decisions on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, the State needs to clearly define its appropriate role in this decisionmaking process; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services seeks to provide a forum for an interdisciplinary examination of bioethical issues which can guide its decisions and affect its programs and policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Department of Human Services Bioethics Advisory Committee.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Bioethics Advisory Committee is to provide a forum for examination and discussion of many aspects of health care that underlie the complex decisions which must be made by third parties on behalf of those in their care.

Membership:

Members shall be selected to represent the disciplines of medicine, law, religion, philosophy, social science and economics.

Functions and Duties:

To carry out the purpose of the Commission, the members shall:

-- analyze specific court cases of Maine citizens in which complex bioethical decisions have been required;

-- examine the experience of other states in making difficult bioethical decisions;

-- and review policies and procedures currently in place in State agencies and health care facilities.

The membership shall, from time to time, make recommendations to the Commissioner of Human Services regarding policy directions and changes.

Administration:

The Department of Human Services will insure staff support to the Committee in order to carry out the purpose of this Executive Order.

Terms of Membership:

The Committee shall consist of no more than twelve (12) members who shall be appointed by the Governor. One-half of the first members shall be appointed to one-year terms, and one-half shall be appointed to two-year terms. All subsequent appointments shall be for two years.

Officers:

The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair.

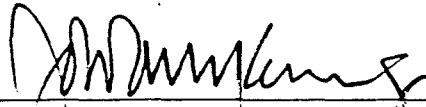
Meetings:

The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair.

Compensation:

Members shall serve without compensation.

The effective date of this Order is August 15, 1990.

  
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John R. McKernan, Jr., Governor