

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 02 FY 99/00
DATE February 1, 2000

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE
YEAR 2000 BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON HEALTH CARE**

WHEREAS, Maine hospitals, physicians and other health care providers provide quality care to Maine citizens;

WHEREAS, access to quality health care is a priority for Maine citizens;

WHEREAS, Maine is a rural state experiencing steep increases in health care costs in both the private and public sectors;

WHEREAS, many Maine citizens cannot afford the current costs of health insurance and prescription drugs;

WHEREAS, Maine has a high rate of occurrence of chronic and other preventable diseases;

WHEREAS, a group of individuals not aligned with the health care industry may find new and creative ways to address Maine's health care issues;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Year 2000 Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care, as follows:

1. Purpose and Charge

The Commission shall: (1) identify the cost elements of Maine's health care system, taking into account the demographics of the State; (2) determine the current allocation of costs and cost shifting among participants in the health care delivery system; (3) recommend potential strategies for stabilizing overall health care costs; and (4) identify payment options for health care services, including the impact of such options on costs and utilization.

2. Functions and Duties

To carry out the foregoing purpose and charge, the Commission shall evaluate, without limitation:

- The design and availability of health insurance products;
- Maine's hospital revenue and cost structure, including the extent of hospital emergency room use and charity care;
- The insured population, the uninsured population, and the underinsured population and the demographics and the trends within these groups;
- The impact of current Medicare reimbursement rates on health care costs;
- The impact of Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other federal regulations on Maine's health care delivery system;
- Collaborative health care purchasing options; and
- Purchasing alternatives for prescription drugs.

The commission shall further make recommendations to the Governor from time to time; and issue a comprehensive report with recommendations to the Governor by November 1, 2000, or as otherwise may be necessary or prudent.

3. Membership

The Commission will be comprised of no more than five members appointed by the Governor. The Commission shall have one chair appointed from among its members by the Governor. The chair shall be a voting chair.

Members shall serve without compensation. Members may be reimbursed by the State for necessary expenditures allowed by state law that are incurred in the performance of their duties on the Commission.

The terms of members expire when the Commission's work terminates.

4. **Resources and Support**

The Commission may seek in its discretion the aid of advisory panels. The Commission shall determine the membership of said panels, which may include, as the Commission deems appropriate, representatives of consumers, providers, payers, small and large employers, insurers and others with expertise or knowledge of Maine's health care delivery system or economics.

The Executive Department will provide initial funding and seek additional monies from philanthropic organizations or other sources, as necessary, to support the Commission's work. The Commission shall have the authority to contract for support services within available funds, as it deems appropriate. The Department of Human Services and the Department of Professional & Financial Regulation shall provide technical support to the Commission within existing resources.

5. **Meetings**

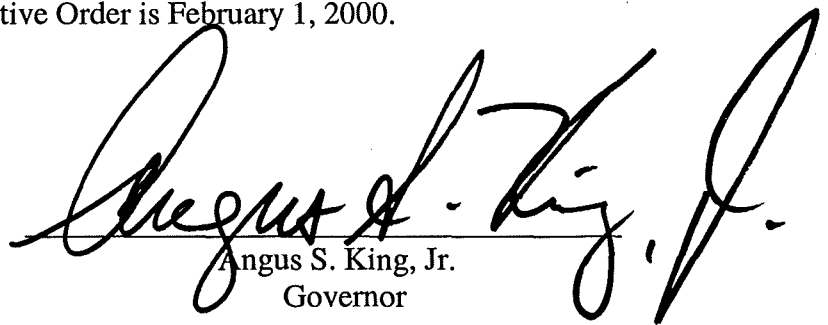
The Commission shall meet as often as necessary to complete the assigned duties. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public and will be held in locations determined by the chair. The chair may also form subcommittees and take other administrative action deemed necessary or appropriate to carry out the work of the Commission. The Commission shall endeavor to decide by consensus on its findings and recommendations as reported to the Governor.

6. **Termination**

The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2000.

7. **Effective Date**

The effective date of this Executive Order is February 1, 2000.


Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor