

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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20K
R. of S.

L.D. 1727

(Filing No. S- 424)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "B" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1184, L.D. 1727, "Resolve, to Develop a Statewide Health Insurance Program"

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Study the Feasibility of a Statewide Health Insurance Program'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

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

Whereas, in order for the joint select committee established in this resolve to complete its study in a timely fashion it is necessary that this legislation be enacted as an emergency measure; and

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

Sec. 1. Joint select committee. Resolved: That the Joint Select Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Statewide Health Insurance Program is established; and be it further

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2 **Sec. 2. Select committee membership. Resolved:** That the Joint
3 Select Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Statewide Health
4 Insurance Program consists of the members of the Joint Standing
5 Committee on Banking and Insurance and 3 adjunct members,
6 appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker
7 of the House of Representatives. All appointments must be made
8 no later than 30 days following the effective date of this Act.
9 The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives shall notify the Executive Director of the
11 Legislative Council upon making their appointments; and be it
12 further

14 **Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved:** That the joint select committee
15 shall study and make recommendations on the feasibility of a
16 statewide health insurance program. The committee shall study
17 the present system of health insurance, its strengths and
18 weaknesses, ways in which the system may be made more efficient
19 and how or whether more universal coverage should be obtained.
20 The committee shall study the following:

22 1. The existing levels and availability of insurance
23 coverage for citizens of the State;

24 2. The availability of continuing insurance coverage during
25 employment changes, unemployment, illnesses, travel or temporary
26 absences and after injury;

28 3. The feasibility of cost control through public
29 accountability and negotiations with providers to achieve greater
30 efficiency and improve quality of care;

32 4. Those aspects of the present system of health insurance
33 that are efficient components of a comprehensive system of
34 coverage; and

36 5. Whether financing by public revenues through a
37 progressive combination of the following is desirable or feasible:

40 A. Consolidating all of the present sources of funding
41 requiring waivers or approval from federal sources such as
42 Medicare, Medicaid, Champus, maternal and child health block
43 grants and substance abuse block grants;

44 B. Consolidating state programs including the Maine Health
45 Program, the Managed Care Insurance Plan Demonstration
46 ("Robert Wood Johnson"), the High Risk Insurance Program,
47 premium tax substance abuse programs, specific disease
48 programs such as diabetes and heart education projects; and
49

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2 C. Developing new public revenues that adequately replace
present corporate and individual spending on insurance
4 premiums and out-of-pocket expenses through a progressive
tax program that does not unfairly or disproportionately
6 burden any present payor or sector and that relieves those
payors who are unable to continue their present burden; and
be it further

8
10 **Sec. 4. Meetings; report. Resolved:** That the joint select
committee shall hold its first meeting on August 1, 1991, shall
12 hold hearings in several regions of the State to provide for
public testimony, shall report to the Second Regular Session of
the 115th Legislature no later than November 1, 1991 and shall
14 submit any necessary implementing legislation no later than
November 1, 1992; and be it further

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18 **Sec. 5. Powers. Resolved:** That the joint select committee may
receive grants and hire consultants subject to provisions of
section 7. Staff assistance and information may be provided as
20 necessary by the Legislative Council except that staff assistance
may not be provided while the Legislature is in session.
22 Consultation and information must be provided as required by the
Department of Human Services and the Department of Professional
24 and Financial Regulation; and be it further

26
28 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That members of the joint
select committee are entitled to legislative per diem and
expenses for the days of attendance at committee meetings upon
request from the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.
30 The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall
administer the budget of the joint select committee; and be it
32 further

34
36 **Sec. 7. Funding. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council may
seek funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation or other
outside sources to finance the joint select committee established
38 in this resolve. The Legislative Council may authorize the joint
select committee to develop funding proposals. The Executive
Director of the Legislative Council shall review and approve any
40 proposal before its submission to a funding source. Before
approving a funding source, the Legislative Council shall examine
42 whether accepting funds from this source will risk the appearance
of undue influence or actual undue influence upon the study. If
44 the Legislative Council determines that accepting funds from the
source will cause this risk, the Legislative Council may not
46 approve the funding source. The Legislative Council shall
administer any outside funds acquired for the conduct of the
48 study. Administration of these funds includes the authorization
for the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to approve
50 or disapprove any contract for assistance to the study in

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2 accordance with guidelines adopted by the Legislative Council.
3 Expenditures may not be incurred that have an impact on the
4 General Fund. Expenditures may not be incurred relative to this
5 study unless funding from outside sources has been received by
6 the Legislative Council; and be it further

7 **Sec. 8. Allocation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
8 allocated from Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of
9 this resolve.

10
11 1991-92

12 **LEGISLATURE**

13
14 **Joint Select Committee to Study**
15 **the Feasibility of a Statewide**
16 **Health Insurance Program**

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19
20 Personal Services \$7,040
21 All Other 72,960

22
23 Provides funds for the Joint
24 Select Committee to Study the
25 Feasibility of a Statewide
26 Health Insurance Program for
27 the per diem and expenses of
28 members, consulting services,
29 printing and advertising
30 costs and other meeting
31 expenses.

32
33 **LEGISLATURE**
34 **TOTAL** \$80,000

35
36 ; and be it further

37
38 **Sec. 9. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
39 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
40 this resolve.

41
42 1991-92

43 **LEGISLATURE**

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45 **Joint Select Committee to Study**
46 **the Feasibility of a Statewide Health**
47 **Insurance Program**

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49 Personal Services \$7,040

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2 All Other 6,880

4 Provides funding for the

6 Joint Select Committee to

8 Study the Feasibility of a

10 Statewide Health Insurance

12 Program for the per diem and

14 expenses for members,

16 printing and advertising

18 costs and other meeting

expenses. If funds from the

Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation or other private

sources become available,

these funds may not be

expended and must lapse to

the General Fund.

20 **LEGISLATURE**

TOTAL \$13,920

22 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the

24 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

26 **FISCAL NOTE**

28 **1991-92**

APPROPRIATION/ALLOCATION

30 General Fund \$13,920

32 Other Funds \$80,000

34 This bill establishes the Joint Select Committee to Study

36 the Feasibility of a Statewide Health Insurance Program and

allocates Other Special Revenue funds to the Legislature of

\$80,000 in fiscal year 1991-92 for the per diem and expenses of

members, consulting services, printing and other meeting

expenses. It additionally provides a General Fund appropriation

to the Legislature of \$13,920 in fiscal year 1991-92 that will be

used for the per diem and expenses of members and printing if

funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation or other private

sources is not received and that must lapse if those other funds

are received. Costs associated with staff assistance will be

absorbed within existing resources of the Legislature.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment incorporates the provisions of House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A", H-640, corrects reporting dates and adds provisions that give the Legislative Council effective oversight authority over the study conducted by the Joint Select Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Statewide Health Insurance Program.

(Senator BRANNIGAN)
SPONSORED BY: Joseph Brannigan
COUNTY: Cumberland

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