

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 2268

S.P. 855

In Senate, March 10, 1998

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force on Hospice Coverage and Palliative Pain Control.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Portland and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, KIEFFER of Aroostook, LONGLEY of Waldo, PARADIS of Aroostook, Representatives: FULLER of Manchester, KANE of Saco, QUINT of Portland, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland.

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

4
6 **Whereas,** it has come to the attention of the Legislature
that there are issues concerning hospice coverage and palliative
pain control for terminally ill citizens that need to be
8 addressed; and

10 **Whereas,** this resolve establishes the Task Force on Hospice
Coverage and Palliative Pain Control; and

12
14 **Whereas,** this resolve is necessary as an emergency measure
to afford adequate time for the issues to be appropriately
addressed by a task force; and

16
18 **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
20 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore, be it

22
24 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force on
Hospice Coverage and Palliative Pain Control, referred to in this
resolve as the "task force," is established to study access to
26 hospice coverage and palliative pain control for terminally ill
citizens in Maine; and be it further

28
30 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force
consists of the following members:

32 1. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health
and Human Services, one of whom must represent the Democratic
34 Party and one of whom must represent the Republican Party,
appointed jointly by the chairs of that committee;

36 2. One representative of each of the following
38 organizations, selected by the members of the organizations: Home
Care Alliance of Maine, the Maine Hospice Council, the Maine
40 Medical Association, the Maine Osteopathic Association, the Maine
Hospital Association, the Organization of Maine Nurse Executives
42 and the Maine Council of Churches; and

44 3. One consumer of hospice care or palliative pain control,
one recipient of Medicaid coverage and one representative of
46 private insurance providers, appointed by the Governor; and be it
further

48
50 **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all appointments
must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date
of this resolve. The Executive Director of the Legislative

2 Council must be notified by all appointing authorities once the
3 selections have been made. Within 15 days of the appointment of
4 all members, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and
5 convene the first meeting of the task force. The task force
6 shall select a chair from among its members; and be it further

8 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall:

10 1. Examine current access to hospice coverage, including
11 hospice coverage in the Medicaid program;

12 2. Examine physician education regarding palliative care
13 and pain control;

14 3. Examine current public use and knowledge of hospice
15 care; and

16 4. Make recommendations, together with any implementing
17 legislation, on the subject of hospice coverage and palliative
18 pain control and public education concerning those issues; and be
19 it further

22 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the members of the task
23 force may request staffing and clerical assistance from the
24 Legislative Council; and be it further

26 **Sec. 6. Compensation; funding. Resolved:** That the members of
27 the task force are not entitled to receive compensation or
28 reimbursement for attendance at meetings of the task force; and
29 be it further

32 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit its
33 report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to
34 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
35 jurisdiction over health and human services matters and to the
36 Executive Director of the Legislative Council no later than
37 December 15, 1998. If the task force requires an extension, it
38 may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the
39 extension.

40 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
41 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

44 **SUMMARY**

46 This resolve establishes the Task Force on Hospice Coverage
47 and Palliative Pain Control.