

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1984

H.P. 1377

House of Representatives, March 23, 1999

An Act to Establish Department of Human Services Review Panels.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Holden.
Cosponsored by Senator RUHLIN of Penobscot and
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, BRAGDON of Bangor, BROOKS of Winterport,
FISHER of Brewer, LOVETT of Scarborough, PLOWMAN of Hampden, SAXL of Bangor,
Senator: MICHAUD of Penobscot.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

4 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §48 is enacted to read:

6 **§48. Community oversight panels**

8 **1. Community oversight panels.** A community oversight panel
10 is established for each of the following 6 regions: Presque
12 Isle, Bangor, Ellsworth, Augusta, Lewiston and Portland. The
14 commissioner shall determine the physical boundaries of each
16 region so that the regions include every part of the State.

18 **2. Composition of oversight panels.** Each panel is composed
20 of 10 members from the region served by the panel. The Governor
22 shall appoint panel members, including one physician, one
24 representative of the insurance industry, 2 mental health
26 providers, 2 attorneys, 2 persons with business or administrative
28 experience and 2 citizens. Panel members shall select a chair.
30 Panel members serve without compensation.

32 **3. Duties of panels.** Each panel shall review all services
34 provided by the department within the region served by the panel,
36 including, but not limited to: child protective services, family
38 and home-based services, services for handicapped individuals and
40 rehabilitation services. A panel shall review the efficiency and
42 cost-effectiveness of all programs administered by the
44 department. The department shall provide office space for panel
46 meetings and assist each panel in performing the duties imposed
48 by this section. A panel shall meet as necessary and accept
50 comments from consumers, service providers and insurers about
each program being reviewed.

4. Findings. All proceedings and findings of a panel are a
matter of public record. A panel shall forward its findings no
later than 30 days after they are made to the Governor, the joint
standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
human services matters and the commissioner. The commissioner or
the commissioner's designee shall respond with corrective action
to a panel's findings within 90 days of receipt.

42 **SUMMARY**

44 This bill establishes 6 regional Department of Human
46 Services review panels that review all services provided by the
48 department for efficiency and cost effectiveness. The panels
50 report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the
Legislature having jurisdiction over human services matters and
make recommendations to the Commissioner of Human Services.