

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

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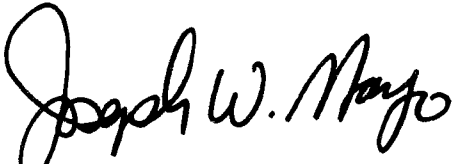
H.P. 1465

House of Representatives, March 30, 1999

**Resolve, Establishing the Commission on Dental and Mental Health
Services for Children.**

(EMERGENCY)

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Speaker ROWE of Portland.

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,** Maine children and low-income people have an urgent
need for adequate access to mental health care and dental care;
and

8
10 **Whereas,** the shortage of mental health and dental
professionals who provide care for children and low-income people
is at the heart of the access problem in many areas of Maine; and

12
14 **Whereas,** current governmental efforts to assist communities
in recruitment and retention of mental health and dental
professionals fall short of providing adequate access to care for
Maine children and low-income people; and

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

24 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission
on Dental and Mental Health Services for Children, referred to in
this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it
further

28 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists
of 11 members as follows:

32 1. The Director of the Bureau of Health within the
Department of Human Services or the director's designee;

34 2. The Director of the Bureau of Medical Services within
the Department of Human Services or the director's designee;

36 3. The Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of
Maine or the chief executive officer's designee;

38 4. The following persons appointed by the President of the
Senate:

40 A. One professional in the field of dental health;

42 B. One member of the public who has recognized expertise in
the education or recruitment of health practioners; and

44 C. Two Senators, no more than one from the majority party;
and

46 5. The following persons appointed by the Speaker of the
House of Representatives:

- 2 A. One professional in the field of mental health;
- 4 B. One member of the public who has recognized expertise in
6 the education or recruitment of health practitioners; and
- 8 C. Two Representatives, no more than one from the majority
 party; and be it further

10 **Sec. 3. Appointments; cochairs. Resolved:** That all appointments
12 must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date
14 of this resolve. The first named Senate member is the Senate
16 chair and the first named House of Representatives member is the
18 House chair. The appointing authorities shall notify the
 Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their
 appointments. When the appointments of all members are complete,
 the cochairs of the commission shall call and convene the first
 meeting of the commission no later than August 1, 1999; and be it
 further

20 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
22 need for additional dental and mental health professionals and
24 strategies and incentives for improving access for children and
26 low-income residents and shall make recommendations for the
28 recruitment, reimbursement and retention of needed health
30 professionals. In examining these issues, the commission shall
32 consult with consumers, health professionals, health educators
34 and other interested parties across the State. The commission
 shall analyze the need for additional dental and mental health
 professionals and shall identify unmet needs and underserved
 areas by type of specialty and by geographic region. The
 commission shall review existing state and federal programs that
 provide incentives for health professionals to practice in
 certain specialties and regions; and be it further

36 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the commission may
38 request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative
 Council; and be it further

40 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the commission members
42 who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per
44 diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section
46 2, for each day's attendance at meetings of the commission and
48 reimbursement of necessary expenses. Public members who are not
 otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities whom
 they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary
 expenses and a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for
 their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. The
 Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall administer
50 the commission's budget; and be it further

2 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
4 its report with any accompanying legislation to the Joint
6 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services of the Second
8 Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by December 1, 1999. If
10 the commission requires a limited extension of time to conclude
12 its study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative
14 Council, which may grant an extension. Upon submission of the
16 required report, the commission terminates.

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

SUMMARY

16 This resolve creates the Commission on Dental and Mental
18 Health Services for Children. The commission is charged with
20 studying the need for additional dental and mental health
22 professionals and strategies and incentives for improving access
24 for children and low-income residents and shall make
recommendations, including legislation. The commission is
required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on
Health and Human Services by December 1, 1999, at which time the
commission is abolished.