

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2495

H.P. 1781

House of Representatives, January 13, 2000

An Act to Coordinate and Improve Access to Health Care for Women.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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 POWERS of Rockport.
Cosponsored by Senator PINGREE of Knox and
Representatives: BRAGDON of Bangor, FULLER of Manchester, KANE of Saco, TESSIER
of Fairfield, Senator: RAND of Cumberland.

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

Sec. 1. Women's Health Initiative established. There is established the Women's Health Initiative, referred to in this Act as the "initiative" or the "program," the goals of which are to provide leadership in the field of health for women and girls and to improve their health status and access to health services. The initiative is guided and overseen by a steering committee that is separate from but works in cooperation with the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health. The program is coordinated by an employee in the Bureau of Health, Division of Community and Family Health and is administered by a nonprofit agency with experience administering and managing health care programs in Maine under contract with the department. For the purposes of this Act, "health" means a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

The responsibilities of the initiative include, but are not limited to, activities related to the following:

1. Programs and services to improve women's and girls' health status;
2. Public and private resources to improve the health of women, expand access to health services and decrease the number of uninsured women and girls;
3. Public policy analysis and development;
4. Grants to nonprofit and community-based organizations working in the field of women's or girls' health;
5. Health data collection, analysis and research;
6. Communication and coordination among communities, governmental and nongovernmental agencies and entities and health resources, and information dissemination;
7. Strategic planning, monitoring and reporting; and
8. Training and technical assistance regarding women's and girls' health.

The initiative is guided and overseen by a steering committee of 21 persons. Seven members must be appointed by the Governor, 7 by the President of the Senate and 7 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. All persons must be appointed by September 1, 2000 from lists submitted by the Bureau of Health or by other persons and entities active in women's health

2 issues. The members of the steering committee must represent
4 health research, health care delivery, health policy, public
6 health, mental health and health advocacy, ensuring broad
8 representation and expertise to address health disparities. The
10 steering committee shall elect a chair and vice chair. The
12 steering committee is staffed by the nonprofit agency under
contract with the Department of Human Services. The steering
committee is responsible for monitoring contract specifications,
program implementation and progress, providing guidance and
oversight on grants awarded to nonprofit and community-based
organizations and ensuring that performance proceeds in line with
stated program goals and objectives.

14 An employee in the Bureau of Health, Division of Family and
16 Community Health coordinates the initiative. This employee is
18 also responsible for monitoring women's and girls' health status,
20 providing technical assistance and training, participating in the
22 development of new women's health programs, providing leadership
in State Government on women's health issues, coordinating the
initiative's health efforts within the department and serving on
national and regional advisory groups and as liaison to federal
agencies.

24 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
26 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2000-01

28 **HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT**

30 **Bureau of Health**

32	Positions - Legislative Count	(1.000)
34	Personal Services	\$42,977
	All Other	9,375
36		<hr/>
	TOTAL	\$52,352

38 Provides funds for one Health Program
40 Manager position, related operating costs
42 and funds for subscriptions and meeting
expenses for the Women's Health Initiative.

44 **Bureau of Health**

46	All Other	\$497,648
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48 Provides funds to contract for

2 administrative services and grants to
3 provide services under the Women's Health
4 Initiative.

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6 **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**
TOTAL

\$550,000

8 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2000.

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SUMMARY

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13 This bill establishes the Women's Health Initiative,
14 coordinated by an employee in the Department of Human Services,
15 Bureau of Health, Division of Community and Family Health. The
16 initiative will be administered by the recipient of a state
17 contract under the guidance of an appointed steering committee.
18 The purpose of the initiative is to improve the health status of
19 and access to health services for women and girls. The
20 initiative is funded with General Fund money for one position and
21 related expenses in the Department of Human Services and for an
22 amount to be contracted out to the entity that provides the
23 administrative services for the program. The bill contains an
24 effective date of July 1, 2000.