

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 898

H.P. 694

House of Representatives, February 15, 2001

An Act to Improve Public Health in the State.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative FULLER of Manchester.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BROOKS of Winterport, BRUNO of Raymond, QUINT of Portland, Senator: RAND of Cumberland.

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

4 **CONCEPT DRAFT**
6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

10 This bill proposes to authorize the Department of Human
12 Services, Bureau of Health to designate Health Districts for
14 planning and developing health promotion and disease prevention
16 services for all citizens of Maine. Once established, the Health
Districts will encourage and support equitable distribution of
health promotion and disease prevention services and will improve
access to health care and create local leadership for activities
to improve the health and well-being of Maine citizens.

18 This bill also proposes to provide funds to support the work
20 of a coordinating Health District Council in each Health
22 District. The Health District Councils, which will include the
24 agencies, hospitals, schools and municipal governments who can
26 assist with access to and delivery of health promotion and
disease prevention services, would be responsible for ensuring
that the following 10 essential public health services are
adequately addressed within the various elements of the health
system in each region:

28 1. Monitoring health status to identify community health
30 problems;

32 2. Diagnosing and investigating health problems and health
hazards in the community;

34 3. Informing, educating, and empowering people about health
36 issues;

38 4. Mobilizing community partnerships and acting to identify
and solve health problems;

40 5. Developing policies and plans that support individual
42 and community health efforts;

44 6. Enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and
ensure safety;

46 7. Linking people to needed personal health services and
48 ensuring the provision of care when otherwise unavailable;

50 8. Ensuring a competent public health and personal health
care workforce;

2 9. Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility and quality of
personal and population-based health services; and

4
6 10. Researching for new insights and innovative solutions
to health problems.

8 Funding for the program is estimated at \$3,875,000 in the
first year and continuing with annual cost-of-living increases in
10 each future year. This bill proposes to fund these costs by
increasing the cigarette tax.