

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1346

H.P. 1009

House of Representatives, March 5, 2001

Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Shortage.

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 Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland and
Representatives: ANDREWS of York, DUDLEY of Portland, NUTTING of Oakland,
SHIELDS of Auburn, TWOMEY of Biddeford, Senator: MITCHELL of Penobscot.

Sec. 1. Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Shortage.

2 **Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce
4 Shortage, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is
established; and be it further

6 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
8 consists of the following 17 members:

10 1. Three members from the House of Representatives, one of
12 whom is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
14 Human Services, one of whom is a member of the Joint Standing
Committee on Labor and one of whom is a member of the Joint
Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, appointed
by the Speaker of the House;

16 2. Three members of the Senate, one of whom is a member of
18 the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, one of
20 whom is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and one
of whom is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education
and Cultural Affairs, appointed by the President of the Senate;

22 3. One representative from the Organization of Maine Nurse
24 Executives, appointed by that organization;

26 4. One representative from the Maine State Nurses
Association, appointed by that association;

28 5. One representative from the Maine Licensed Practical
30 Nurses Association, appointed by that association;

32 6. One representative from the Maine Hospital Association,
appointed by that association;

34 7. One representative from the Maine Health Care
36 Association, appointed by that association;

38 8. One representative from the Allied Health Association,
appointed by that association;

40 9. One representative from the Home Care Alliance of Maine,
42 appointed by that alliance;

44 10. One representative from the Maine Society of Human
Resource Administrators, appointed by that society;

46 11. One representative from the Coalition of Maine Nursing
48 Organizations, appointed by that coalition;

50 12. One representative from a school of nursing in the
State, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

2 13. The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services or
the commissioner's designee; and be it further

4
6 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first named Senate member
is the Senate chair of the commission and the first named House
of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission;
8 and be it further

10 **Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
12 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
14 Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
authorities once the selections have been made. When the
16 appointment of all members has been completed, the chairs of the
commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the
18 commission no later than 30 days after all members have been
appointed; and be it further

20 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
health care workforce shortage in the State.

22 1. In conducting the study, the commission shall:

24 A. Study the current labor shortage of health professionals
26 in the State;

28 B. Project future implications for the health care system
of the State due to the labor shortage of health
30 professionals in the State; and

32 C. Develop recommendations to address the labor shortage of
health professionals in the State.

34 2. In examining these questions, the commission may:

36 A. Hold informational sessions for discussions with
38 knowledgeable persons;

40 B. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a
literature search;

42 C. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of
44 the public or affected persons and groups;

46 D. Procure and analyze relevant data;

48 E. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal
50 questions within the scope of the study; and

2 F. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or
governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions
4 related to issues within the scope of the study; and be it
further

6 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Department of Human
Services shall provide necessary staffing services to the
8 commission; and be it further

10 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative
12 per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,
section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for
14 their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Other
members of the commission who are not otherwise compensated by
16 their employers or other entities that they represent are
entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred
18 for their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission;
and be it further

20 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
22 its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having
24 jurisdiction over health and human services, labor and education
and cultural affairs matters no later than January 1, 2003. The
26 joint standing committees of the Legislature have jurisdiction
over health and human services, labor and education and cultural
28 affairs matters may report out legislation pursuant to this
Resolve to the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature. If
30 the commission requires a limited extension of time to conclude
its work, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may
32 grant the extension; and be it further

34 **Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the commission,
with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the
36 commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the
commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the
38 Legislative Council for approval. The commission may not incur
expenses that would result in the commission exceeding its
40 approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the Executive
Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the
42 commission chairs and staff with a status report on the
commission's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available
44 funds.

46

SUMMARY

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50 This bill establishes the Commission to Study the Health
Care Workforce Shortage to study the labor shortage of health

professionals in the State and to report, together with any
2 necessary implementing legislation, to the joint standing
committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and
4 human services, labor and education cultural affairs matters no
later than January 1, 2003.