

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1475

H.P. 1106

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

**Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Respond to the Crisis in Access
to Oral Health Services for Residents of the State.**

(EMERGENCY)

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative PEAVEY of Woolwich.
Cosponsored by Senator SMALL of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: FULLER of Manchester, GAGNE of Buckfield, KANE of Saco, LOVETT of
Scarborough, NORBERT of Portland, O'BRIEN of Augusta, Senator: MITCHELL of
Penobscot.

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,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day
period expires in order that the study may be undertaken and
completed in a comprehensive manner and the report completed in
8 time for submission to the next Legislature; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
12 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
14 safety; now, therefore, be it

16 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission
to Respond to the Crisis in Access to Oral Health Services for
18 Residents of the State, referred to in this resolve as the
"commission," is established; and be it further

20 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
22 consists of the following 16 members:

24 1. Two Senators, one of whom must serve on the Joint
Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, appointed by the
26 President of the Senate;

28 2. Three members of the House of Representatives, at least
one of whom must serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Health
30 and Human Services, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

32 3. Two representatives of the Department of Human Services,
one conversant in public health issues and one conversant in
34 Medicaid issues, appointed by the Governor; and

36 4. Nine members of the general public, including:

38 A. One dentist, one representative of a public or nonprofit
community dental clinic and one dental hygienist, appointed
40 by the Governor;

42 B. One community dental health advocate, one representative
of low-income citizens and one representative of elderly
44 citizens, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

46 C. One representative of the federally qualified rural
health centers, one representative of a rural or medically
48 underserved area and one community dental health advocate,
appointed by the President of the Senate; and be it further
50

2 **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;
4 and be it further

6 **Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
appointments must be made no later than October 1, 2001. The
8 Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by
all appointing authorities once the selections have been made.
10 When the appointment of all members has been completed, the
Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall call and
12 convene the first meeting of the commission no later than
November 1, 2001; and be it further

14 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall develop a
16 comprehensive state plan designed to respond, both immediately
and over the next decade, to the critical lack of access to oral
18 health services for all residents of the State, particularly
low-income children and adults and elderly citizens. The
20 commission shall consider the impact of initiatives that are
already underway to address this goal as well as any additional
22 changes in policy and programs that would allow all citizens of
the State access to appropriate oral health services. The
24 commission shall consider, at a minimum, the use of public or
private nonprofit dental clinics to expand access to oral health
26 services; methods of recruiting new dentists to the State and
encouraging the State's young people to consider a career in oral
28 health services; educational and other strategies that focus on
prevention; expanding the scope of practice of dental hygienists;
30 establishing expanded roles for schools and nursing homes in the
delivery of oral health services; alternative delivery mechanisms
32 for oral health services, particularly in rural areas and to
special populations; and the expansion of Medicaid coverage for
34 oral health services to adults. In making its recommendations,
the commission shall give particular consideration to any methods
36 of increasing access that would take advantage of any available
federal funds to meet the oral health services needs of
38 low-income citizens; and be it further

40 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
42 shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and
be it further

44 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
46 commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative
per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,
48 section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for
their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Other
50 members of the commission who are not otherwise compensated by

2 their employers or other entities that they represent are
entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred
4 for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

6 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
8 to the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature not later
than June 1, 2003. If the commission requires a limited
10 extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the
Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it
12 further

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

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

28 SUMMARY

30 This resolve establishes the Commission to Respond to the
32 Crisis in Access to Oral Health Services for Residents of the
State to investigate the developing difficulties of access to
34 oral health services. The commission is charged with developing
a coordinated and comprehensive long-term plan to prepare the
36 State to respond to this critical issue.