

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1503

S.P. 449

In Senate, March 8, 2001

**Resolve, Creating the Commission to Study Health Insurance Costs for
Small Businesses.**

Reference to the Committee on Banking and Insurance suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BROMLEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco and
Senators: DOUGLASS of Androscoggin, SHOREY of Washington, Representatives: MAYO
of Bath, MICHAUD of Fort Kent.

2 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission
to Study Health Insurance Costs for Small Businesses, referred to
4 in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it
further

6 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
consists of the following 13 members:

8
10 1. Seven legislative members, 3 who must be members of the
Senate and 4 who must be members of the House of Representatives,
12 appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

14 A. Two who are members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Banking and Insurance;

16 B. Two who are members of the Joint Standing Committee on
18 Health and Human Services;

20 C. One who is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs;

22 D. One who is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on
24 Taxation; and

26 E. One who is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on
Business and Economic Development; and

28 2. Six members of the public appointed by the President of
the Senate as follows:

30 A. One health insurance provider;

32 B. One representative from a statewide organization
34 interested in the consolidation of health care;

36 C. One health policy analyst;

38 D. One small business owner;

40 E. One representative from the American Academy of
42 Actuaries specializing in health care; and

44 F. One low-income worker; and be it further

46 **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;
48 and be it further

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

20 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study and
22 develop a comprehensive plan to provide comprehensive, affordable
24 health insurance that would be made available to small businesses
26 and their employees, proprietors and the self-employed. The
28 commission shall investigate the most cost-effective way to
30 deliver high-quality health insurance to this specific
32 population, including maximizing federal dollars and minimizing
34 administrative costs; and be it further

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

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

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That the commission shall submit
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later
than October 15, 2002. If the commission requires a limited
extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the
Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it
further

Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved: That the chairs of the commission,
with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the
commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the
commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the
Legislative Council for approval. The commission may not incur
expenses that would result in the commission exceeding its
approved budget. Upon request from the commission,

2 the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly
3 provide the commission chairs and staff with a status report on
4 the commission's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and
5 available funds.

6

SUMMARY

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10 This resolve creates the Commission to Study Health
Insurance Costs for Small Businesses.