

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.S.

L.D. 497

DATE: 1-8-04

(Filing No. S-357)

INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Reported by: MINORITY

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STATE OF MAINE SENATE 121ST LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 169, L.D. 497, "Resolve, To Study the Feasibility and Effectiveness of Providing Consumers with Consumer Reports on Health Care Services"

Amend the resolve by striking out all of the emergency preamble (page 1, lines 1 to 18 in L.D.)

Further amend the resolve by striking out all of section 4 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall review and analyze the costs and benefits of providing information on both the quality and cost of health care to consumers of health care services, including, but not limited to, whether health insurance costs can be reduced by giving consumers better information on health care costs and quality. The commission shall also draft recommended legislation on the best method and format for providing that information to consumers. The commission shall also develop a process to provide public access to a comparison of health insurance plans, benefits and rates among health insurance carriers doing business in the State to assist consumers with selecting private health insurance coverage; and be it further'

Further amend the resolve by striking out all of section 6 and inserting in its place the following:

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ERS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 169, L.D. 497

2 Further amend the resolve by striking out all of section 9
and inserting in its place the following:

4
6 **Sec. 9. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
its report, together with any recommended implementing
8 legislation, to the First Regular Session of the 122nd
Legislature no later than November 3, 2004. The commission may
10 also submit such interim reports as it determines necessary. The
commission may introduce legislation related to its report to the
12 First Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature at the time of
submission of its report; and be it further

14 **Sec. 10. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the
following appropriations and allocations are made.

16 **LEGISLATURE**

18 **Miscellaneous Studies - Commission to Study Reports for Consumers
20 of Health Care Services**

22 Initiative: Allocates funds for reimbursement to commission
members from nonstate funds that may be available.

24

26	Other Special Revenue Funds	2003-04	2004-05
	All Other	\$0	\$500
28			
	Other Special Revenue Funds Total	\$0	\$500'

30
32 Further amend the resolve by striking out all of the
emergency clause (page 3, lines 35 and 36 in L.D.)

34 **SUMMARY**

36
38 This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The
amendment modifies the duties of the Commission to Study Reports
40 for Consumers of Health Care Services to include recommendations
for public access to health insurance rate comparisons. It
42 extends the reporting deadline to November 3, 2004.

44 The amendment also adds an allocation section and removes
the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

46 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
48 (See attached)

**121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review**



LD 497

**Resolve, To Study the Feasibility and Effectiveness of Providing
Consumers with Consumer Reports on Health Care Services**

LR 0437(02)

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "
Committee: Insurance and Financial Services**

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Minority Report

Fiscal Note

	2003-04	2004-05	Projections 2005-06	Projections 2006-07
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0

Legislative Study

The projected cost to fund the operating expenses of this study is \$11,680 in fiscal year 2004-05. If sufficient outside funding is not available for the study, General Fund money may have to be used. The Legislature has budgeted \$20,000 in fiscal year 2004-05 for legislative studies. Whether this amount is sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. An allocation to the Legislature of \$500 in fiscal year 2004-05 is included to establish a base allocation to permit expenditures from any dedicated revenue received. Any additional costs to the Department of Human Services resulting from the Commissioner or a designee participating can be absorbed by the Department within existing budgeted resources.