

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 535

S.P. 175

In Senate, February 6, 2003

### **An Act To Strengthen Health Data Information and Health Planning**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services 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 TURNER of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative DUDLEY of Portland and  
Senator: WESTON of Waldo, Representatives: MARLEY of Portland, O'BRIEN of Augusta.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§14-D** is enacted to read:

6 14-D. State Health Legislative 22 MRSA  
Human Services Planning Per Diem §253-A,  
8 Commission for sub-§6  
Legislators  
10 and Expenses  
for Appointed  
12 Members

14 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §253-A** is enacted to read:

16 **§253-A. State Health Planning Commission**

18 There is established the State Health Planning Commission,  
referred to in this section as "the commission," to adopt by  
20 November 1, 2003 and every other year thereafter a statewide  
comprehensive health care plan as provided in this section.

22 1. Membership. The commission consists of 9 members  
appointed as follows:

24 A. The Governor shall appoint 3 members as follows:

26 (1) One person representing providers of health care  
28 services;

30 (2) One person representing a statewide organization  
of public health professionals; and

32 (3) One person representing educators of health care  
34 personnel;

36 B. The President of the Senate shall appoint 3 members as  
follows:

38 (1) Two members of the Senate, one of whom the  
40 President shall designate as chair; and

42 (2) One person representing consumers of health care;  
44 and

46 C. The Speaker of the House shall appoint 3 members as  
follows:

48 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives; and

50 (2) One person representing entities or organizations  
52 that utilize health data.

2           2. Terms of office. The Governor, the President of the  
Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each designate one  
4           initial appointment as a 2-year appointment. All other  
appointments are for 3 years.

6           3. Appointments. All appointments must be made no later  
than 30 days following the effective date of this section. The  
8           appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the  
Legislative Council upon making their appointments. When the  
10          appointment of all members is complete, the chair of the  
Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of  
12          the commission no later than September 1, 2003. All commission  
members serve until their replacements have been appointed,  
14          including members serving by virtue of their service as  
Legislators.

16          4. Duties. The commission shall perform the following  
18          duties:

20           A. After consideration of the state health plan adopted by  
the department pursuant to section 253 and any plans adopted  
22           by state agencies, and after consultation and collaboration  
with those agencies, providers and consumers of health care  
24           services and persons interested in the future of health  
care, develop a statewide comprehensive health care plan;

26           B. Maintain the statewide comprehensive health care plan  
developed in paragraph A, integrating new information and  
28           data from sources within the State and outside of the State;  
and  
30           

32           C. Provide information regarding the health planning  
process to the public, including the data and policy  
34           considerations reviewed and debated by the commission in the  
development of the statewide comprehensive health care plan.

36          5. Staff assistance. The commission may request staffing  
38          assistance from the Legislative Council.

40          6. Reimbursement. Commission members who are Legislators  
are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in  
42          Title 3, section 2, for each day's attendance at meetings of the  
commission. All members of the commission are entitled to  
44          reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses, upon  
application to the Legislative Council. The Executive Director  
46          of the Legislative Council shall administer the commission's  
budget.

48          7. Report. By November 15th of each odd-numbered year  
50          beginning in 2003, the commission shall submit its report with

2 any accompanying legislation to the Legislature and to the  
3 department.

4 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §8704, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

6 12. Outcomes and clinical pathways. The board shall  
7 collaborate with other agencies, professional associations and  
8 entities working in the field of health care data, utilization,  
9 cost and quality to evaluate outcomes and clinical pathways and  
10 to provide information to the public as a result of that  
11 collaboration.

12 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §8707, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

14 6. Easy access to information. The board shall release  
15 health data to the public in a format that is easy and convenient  
16 for the public to access and understand and post that data on the  
17 Internet.

20 **Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §8708, sub-§7,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 653,  
21 Pt. A, §2 and affected by §7, is amended to read:

22 7. Authority to obtain information. Nothing in this  
23 section may be construed to limit the board's authority to obtain  
24 information that it considers necessary to carry out its duties.  
25 Beginning January 1, 2004, the board shall require the submission  
26 of data from all health care payors, carriers, 3rd-party  
27 administrators and providers in order to obtain information  
28 regarding total health care system utilization, costs and  
29 revenues.

## 32 SUMMARY

34 This bill expands the data collection duties of the Maine  
35 Health Data Organization in order to foster understanding of the  
36 total health care system. It requires the organization to  
37 release information to the public in a user-friendly manner. It  
38 requires the organization to work to evaluate outcomes and  
39 clinical pathways. It requires a new State Health Planning  
40 Commission to develop a new statewide health plan by November 1,  
41 2003 and every 2 years thereafter and to report to the  
42 Legislature and the Department of Human Services once every 2  
43 years.