

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 835

H.P. 594

House of Representatives, February 16, 2005

**Resolve, To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of
MaineCare**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CURLEY of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and
Representatives: McKANE of Newcastle, MILLER of Somerville, MILLETT of Waterford,
PINGREE of North Haven, SHIELDS of Auburn, WOODBURY of Yarmouth, Senators:
MILLS of Somerset, ROSEN of Hancock.

2 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Blue Ribbon
Commission on the Future of MaineCare, referred to in this
3 resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it further
4

6 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
6 members, all of whom are community leaders with experience in
public policy, public finance, private business or the provision
8 of health care. The members must be appointed as follows: 2 by
the Governor; 2 by the President of the Senate; and 2 by the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The first appointee of
the Governor shall serve as chair; and be it further
12

14 **Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be
made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
16 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive
Director of the Legislative Council upon making their
18 appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete,
the chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the
20 first meeting of the commission no later than October 15, 2005;
and be it further

22 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
future of the MaineCare program, options for providing coverage
24 to persons in need of health care services, models for financing
health care coverage under the federal Medicaid program and
26 coordination with employer-based and other individual and group
health insurance coverage. The commission shall examine the
28 public policy foundations of different Medicaid program options,
the implications of various models of personal and public
30 responsibility for health care and alternative funding, payment
and program designs and their implications for fiscal
32 predictability and stability. The commission shall provide
recommendations for the future of the MaineCare program,
34 including program design, eligibility, benefits and
reimbursement, the use of waiver options and finance and fiscal
36 stability. The commission may hold public hearings and public
meetings at various locations across the State. In performing
38 its duties, the commission shall consult with the MaineCare
Advisory Committee, the Maine Quality Forum, the Advisory Council
40 on Health Systems Development and associations of health care
providers, employers providing health benefits and health
42 carriers; and be it further

44 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the commission shall
request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative
46 Council. The Department of Health and Human Services, the
Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance, the Maine Health
48 Data Organization and the Maine Health Data Processing Center
shall provide information and assistance as requested by the
50 commission; and be it further

2 **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That commission members
3 serve as volunteers, with no per diem reimbursement. All members
4 of the commission are entitled to reimbursement for travel and
5 other necessary expenses, upon application to the Legislative
6 Council. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall
7 administer the commission's budget; and be it further

8 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit an
9 interim report with any accompanying legislation to the Second
10 Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature by January 1, 2006, and
11 shall submit a final report with any accompanying legislation to
12 the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature by December 1,
13 2006; and be it further

14 **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the
15 following appropriations and allocations are made.

16
17 **BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE
18 FUTURE OF MAINECARE**

19
20 **Blue Ribbon Commission on the
21 Future of MaineCare**

22
23 Initiative: Provides funding for expenses for members of the
24 Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of MaineCare, for 6 meetings
25 in fiscal year 2005-06 and 8 meetings in fiscal year 2006-07 and
26 funds for mailings, printing and other costs.

27

28 GENERAL FUND	29 2005-06	30 2006-07
31 All Other	\$6,960	\$10,280
32 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$6,960</u>	<u>\$10,280</u>

33
34
35 **SUMMARY**

36
37 This resolve creates the Blue Ribbon Commission on the
38 Future of MaineCare. The commission, composed of 6 persons, is
39 appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of
40 the House. The commission is directed to study the future of the
41 MaineCare program, options for coverage, models for financing and
42 coordination with individual and group coverage. The commission
43 is also required to examine the public policy, various models of
44 responsibility for health care and alternatives for funding and
45 fiscal stability. The commission is directed to provide
46 recommendations for the future of the MaineCare program. The
47 commission may hold public hearings and public meetings. The
48 commission is directed to consult with the MaineCare Advisory
49 Committee, the Maine Quality Forum, the Advisory Council on
50 Health Systems Development and associations of health care
51 providers, employers providing health benefits and health
52 carriers. Commission staffing may be provided by the Legislative
53 Council. The Department of Health and Human Services, the

2 Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance, the Maine Health
Data Organization and the Maine Health Data Processing Center are
4 directed to provide information and assistance as requested. The
commission is required to provide reports and any accompanying
6 legislation by January 1, 2006 and December 1, 2006. The resolve
includes an appropriation for the work of the commission.