

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/8/06
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L.D. 1707
(Filing No. H-814)

3 **Health and Human Services**

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5 **STATE OF MAINE**
6 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
7 **122ND LEGISLATURE**
8 **SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 'A' to H.P. 1214, L.D. 1707, "Resolve, Directing the
10 Commissioner of Health and Human Services To Develop Strategies To Keep Senior
11 Citizens Safe from Falls "

12 Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary
13 and inserting in its place the following:

14 **'Sec. 1. Falls Prevention Coalition. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of
15 Health and Human Services shall appoint a statewide coalition to be known as the Falls
16 Prevention Coalition. The coalition must include the current membership of the Southern
17 Maine Area Agency on Aging's Project Advisory Committee for the "A Matter of
18 Balance" project with additional participation from the long-term care ombudsman
19 associated with the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Elder and
20 Adult Services, Maine Medical Association, Maine Hospital Association, Northern New
21 England Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Maine Health Care
22 Association and others as appropriate to develop a broad-based coalition with expertise to
23 review and serve as a vetting panel for additional falls prevention initiatives.

24 The Falls Prevention Coalition under the direction of the Department of Health and
25 Human Services, Office of Elder Services shall conduct a review of the effects of falls of
26 older adults on health care costs, the potential for reducing the number of falls of older
27 adults and the most effective strategies for reducing falls and health care costs associated
28 with falls. The Falls Prevention Coalition shall:

29 1. Consider strategies to improve the identification of older adults who have a high
30 risk of falling;

31 2. Consider strategies to improve data collection and analysis to identify fall risk,
32 health care cost data and protective factors;

33 3. Consider strategies to maximize the dissemination of proven, effective fall
34 prevention interventions and identify barriers to those interventions;

35 4. Assess the risk and measure the incidence of falls occurring in various settings;

1 5. Identify evidence-based community programs designed to prevent falls among
2 older adults;

3 6. Review falls prevention initiatives for community-based settings, including: the
4 Senior Fall Prevention Screening Kit, Minnesota; Slips, Trips and Falls - Avoid Them All
5 - Designing and Implementing a Community Based Multifactorial Falls Reduction
6 Intervention Program, New Hampshire; Health, Education, Research Outreach for
7 Seniors - Reducing Falls and Serious Injuries, Temple University; and the Connecticut
8 Collaboration for Fall Prevention, Yale School of Medicine; and

9 7. Examine the components and key elements of the above falls prevention
10 initiatives, consider their applicability in Maine and develop strategies for pilot testing,
11 implementation and evaluation; and be it further

12 **Sec. 2. Report effects of falls on older adults in Maine. Resolved:** That the
13 Falls Prevention Coalition shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Health and
14 Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, no
15 later than November 2, 2006 that includes findings under section 1, recommendations and
16 suggested legislation. The report must include recommendations for:

17 1. A statewide demonstration project assessing the utility of targeted fall risk
18 screening and referral programs;

19 2. Intervention approaches, including physical activity, medication assessment and
20 reduction of medication when possible, vision enhancement and home-modification
21 strategies;

22 3. Programs that are targeted to fall victims who are at a high risk for 2nd falls and
23 that are designed to maximize independence and quality of life for older adults,
24 particularly those older adults with functional limitations; and

25 4. Programs that encourage partnerships to prevent falls among older adults and
26 prevent or reduce injuries when falls occur.

27 The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and
28 human services matters may report out legislation related to the report to the First Regular
29 Session of the 123rd Legislature.'

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This amendment changes the resolve by directing the Commissioner of Health and
32 Human Services to appoint a statewide Falls Prevention Coalition. The amendment gives
33 the responsibility for conducting several activities to the coalition under the direction of
34 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Elder Services. The amendment
35 eliminates the educational activities that the bill included. The amendment directs the
36 coalition to: review health costs associated with falls, review strategies for reducing falls,
37 review the potential for reducing falls and associated costs and consider 7 strategies
38 delineated in the resolve. The amendment directs the coalition to submit a report to the
39 commissioner and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services that
40 includes findings and recommendations along with suggestions for legislation.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See Attached)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1707

LR 2640(02)

Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to Develop Strategies to Keep Senior Citizens Safe from Falls

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services in implementing this bill can be absorbed by the department utilizing existing budgetary resources.