

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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RRS

L.D. 1927

DATE: 4-10-06

(Filing No. S-580)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reported by:

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
122ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 727, L.D. 1927, Bill, "An Act To Prevent State Taxpayers from Subsidizing Large Employers"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, To Collect Information about Employer-based Health Coverage'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Data collection. Resolved: That the Department of Labor shall conduct a one-time survey project to collect and analyze information from a statistically valid sample of employers in the State for the purposes of determining:

1. The status, offering and use of employer-sponsored health coverage in the State;

2. What types of employer-sponsored health coverage are being offered and how the premiums are shared between employers and employees;

3. How health care needs are being met for employees and their families who are not enrolled in or do not have access to employer-sponsored coverage; and

4. How the State's data for subsections 1 to 3 compare with data available from other states.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

The Department of Labor shall consult with employers and employer groups and persons knowledgeable about health care, health coverage, health policy and employee benefits in designing the survey. The department may seek and accept outside funding for the costs of data collection and analysis.

Subject to confidentiality and other requirements of state and federal law, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide information from its databases to the Department of Labor to the extent necessary for the collection of relevant information for the survey. Information collected and generated for the survey by the Department of Labor that directly identifies employers is confidential and may not be disclosed by the Department of Labor.

An employer shall respond to a request made for the survey under this section from the Department of Labor within 45 days of receipt of the request.

By February 1, 2007, the Department of Labor shall submit a report of its findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial affairs and the Board of Directors of Dirigo Health. The report must provide information in aggregate form and may not identify employers by name; and be it further

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Security Services NEW

Initiative: Provides funds to the Division of Labor Market Information Services for the data collection and analysis costs associated with the one-time survey of employer-sponsored health coverage.

GENERAL FUND	2005-06	2006-07
All Other	\$0	\$5,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,000'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes it to a resolve. The amendment directs the Department of Labor to

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 727, L.D. 1927

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conduct a one-time survey project to collect and analyze information on employer-sponsored health coverage. The amendment protects the confidentiality of information that directly identifies employers that is collected and generated for the survey by the Department of Labor and requires a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial affairs and the Board of Directors of Dirigo Health that presents the information in aggregate form and does not identify employers by name.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1927

LR 2794(02)

An Act To Prevent State Taxpayers from Subsidizing Large Employers

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

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	2005-06	2006-07	Projections 2007-08	Projections 2008-09
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$5,000 in fiscal year 2006-07 for the Employment Security Services program within the Department of Labor for the data collection and analysis costs associated with the one-time survey of employer-sponsored health coverage.

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