

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

CORRECTED COPY
February 1, 2006
(Please Destroy any copy of
L.D. 1934 that does not have
the notation "Corrected Copy")



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 1934

S.P. 735

In Senate, January 4, 2006

Resolve, To Improve Retention, Quality and Benefits for Direct Care Health Workers

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule
203.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President EDMONDS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senators: BRENNAN of Cumberland, BRYANT of Oxford, MAYO of
Sagadahoc, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: DUDLEY of Portland, LERMAN
of Augusta, PATRICK of Rumford, PINGREE of North Haven.

1 **Sec. 1. Long-term care direct care workers; study. Resolved:** That the
2 Department of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Labor,
3 shall conduct with the Department of Labor, shall conduct a study of direct care workers
4 in state-funded and MaineCare-funded programs to:

5 1. Examine the wage, benefit and reimbursement structures for direct care workers in
6 all long-term care setting, including but not limited to nursing facilities, residential care
7 facilities, mental retardation waiver homes and home care;

8 2. Determine the cost of a wage floor of \$8.50 per hour and the cost of a wage floor
9 of \$10 per hour for entry-level direct care workers, including certified nursing assistants,
10 personal support specialists, home health aides, homemakers and direct support
11 professionals. The study must include determination of the cost of proportional increases
12 in current wage scales for more experienced workers and employer-related costs such as
13 FICA;

14 3. Develop options to extend MaineCare or other health insurance coverage for
15 direct care workers; and

16 4. Evaluate the need for a direct care worker registry, including desired objectives of
17 such a registry and a cost estimate.

18 The department shall invite participation of, and consultation with, interested parties
19 involve in long-term care or home health care, including direct support and personal
20 assistance workers from all settings during the course of study. The departments shall
21 conduct the study within existing financial resources. The department shall submit its
22 report, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the joint standing committee
23 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later
24 than January 1, 2007.

25

SUMMARY

26 This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to study options
27 for, and cost of, increasing wages and providing health coverage for direct care workers
28 in state-funded and MaineCare-funded long-term care programs.