

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1  
Date: 4-3-06  
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(Filing No. S-546)

3 **Health and Human Services**

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

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 748, L.D. 1949, "Resolve, To Ensure  
10 Proper Accounting for Funds at the Department of Health and Human Services"

11 Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

12 **'Resolve, To Ensure Financial Management at the Department of Health and**  
13 **Human Services'**

14 Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting in its  
15 place the following:

16 **'Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services Financial**  
17 **Management Work Group. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Administrative  
18 and Financial Services and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall  
19 convene the Department of Health and Human Services Financial Management Work  
20 Group, referred to in this resolve as "the work group," to develop the report described in  
21 section 3 and the plan described in section 4. Employees of the Department of  
22 Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Health and Human Services  
23 shall serve as chairs, cochairs and staff for the work group as needed; and be it further

24 **Sec. 2. Work group members. Resolved:** That the work group consists of  
25 representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the  
26 Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Deputy Commissioner of Finance,  
27 and representatives of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services,  
28 including the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, the State  
29 Controller, the State Budget Officer, the Director of the Health and Human Services  
30 Service Center and the Chief Information Officer, or their designees. The Commissioner  
31 of Administrative and Financial Services and the Commissioner of Health and Human  
32 Services shall invite 2 members of the Senate and 2 members of the House of  
33 Representatives. One Senate member and one House member must be from the joint  
34 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and  
35 financial affairs. One Senate member and one House member must be from the joint  
36 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services  
37 matters; and be it further

1       **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the work group shall present a report to the joint  
2 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and  
3 financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction  
4 over health and human services matters no later than March 30, 2007. The report must  
5 include the following information as defined by and agreed to by the work group:

6           1. A description of specific information requirements and specific activities needed  
7 in order for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Department of  
8 Health and Human Services and the Legislature to make informed budgetary decisions,  
9 provide for effective and efficient program operations and ensure adequate financial  
10 reporting by the Department of Health and Human Services;

11           2. Specific timelines and assignment of responsibility related to the information  
12 requirements and activities agreed to by the work group; and

13           3. Recommendations for legislation necessary to prepare and implement the  
14 Department of Health and Human Services plan described in section 4 and the adjustment  
15 or realignment of accounts and programs; and be it further

16       **Sec. 4. Plan. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services  
17 shall use the information from the report in section 3 to prepare and present a plan that  
18 will assist the department and the Legislature in making informed budgetary decisions,  
19 provide for effective and efficient program operations and ensure adequate financial  
20 reporting by the department. The department shall present the plan to the joint standing  
21 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs  
22 and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and  
23 human services matters no later than March 30, 2008. The plan, which the department  
24 shall implement in time to prepare the budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, must include  
25 the following:

26           1. Recommendations that address the information requirements identified in section  
27 3 and the appropriate format for presenting the information;

28           2. Recommendations related to continuing education to ensure staff members  
29 become and remain informed about and trained in the current laws and rules governing  
30 program requirements;

31           3. Information on the reconciliation of all program accounts;

32           4. Details of an accounting structure that meets the requirements of financial  
33 accountability and reporting;

34           5. Recommendations for exercising due diligence to minimize any unintended  
35 consequences or disruptions in services during the transition to the new accounting  
36 structure; and

37           6. Recommendations for any additional legislation necessary to fully implement the  
38 plan; and be it further

39       **Sec. 5. Legislation authorized. Resolved:** That the joint standing committee  
40 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the  
41 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human  
42 services matters may each report out legislation related to the adjustment or realignment

1 of accounts and programs as well as any legislation necessary to fully implement the  
2 plan.'

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the resolve. The amendment creates the Department of  
5 Health and Human Services Financial Management Work Group, which is required to  
6 develop a report and a plan to assist the Department of Administrative and Financial  
7 Services, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Legislature in making  
8 informed budgetary decisions, providing for effective and efficient program operations  
9 and ensuring adequate financial reporting by the Department of Health and Human  
10 Services. The work group shall recommend any legislation needed to implement the  
11 plan. It directs that employees of the Department of Administrative and Financial  
12 Services and the Department of Health and Human Services convene, chair and staff the  
13 work group and lists the parties to be represented on the work group. It requires the work  
14 group to present the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
15 jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of  
16 the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by March 30,  
17 2007 and outlines the contents of the report. It requires the Department of Health and  
18 Human Services to prepare and present a plan, which must be implemented in time to  
19 prepare the budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, to the 2 committees by March 30, 2008.  
20 It authorizes the 2 committees to report out legislation related to the adjustment or  
21 realignment of accounts and programs and any legislation necessary to fully implement  
22 the plan.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED  
(See Attached)



# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1949

LR 3071(02)

**Resolve, To Ensure Proper Accounting for Funds at the Department of Health and Human Services**

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

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Current Costs - Legislative Participation in a Work Group

### Legislative Study

The projected costs to fund the general operating expenses of four legislators required to participate on the Department of Health and Human Services Financial Management Work Group are \$2,480 in fiscal year 2006-07. The Legislature's proposed budget includes \$20,000 in fiscal year 2006-07 for legislative studies and other legislative requirements. Whether the amount is sufficient to fund all legislative requests will depend on the amount authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature.

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The additional costs associated with developing a plan, submitting a report and staffing the Work Group can be absorbed by the Department of Health and Human Services utilizing existing budgeted resources.