

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 773

H.P. 591

House of Representatives, February 13, 2007

An Act To Preserve Dirigo Choice

Reference to the Committee on Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRYANT of Windham.
Cosponsored by Senator BRYANT of Oxford and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, CARTER of Bethel, GERZOFSKY of Brunswick,
GROSE of Woolwich, PATRICK of Rumford, PINEAU of Jay, WHEELER of Kittery.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §6910, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 400, Pt. C, §8, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **2. Legislative approval of nonprofit health care plan or expansion of public**
5 **plan.** ~~If health insurance carriers do not apply to offer and deliver Dirigo Health Program~~
6 ~~coverage, the~~ The board may have Dirigo Health provide access to health insurance by
7 proposing the establishment of a nonprofit health care plan organized under Title 13-B
8 and authorized pursuant to Title 24, chapter 19 or by proposing the expansion of an
9 existing public plan. If the board proposes the establishment of a nonprofit health care
10 plan or the expansion of an existing public plan, the board shall submit its proposal,
11 including, but not limited to, a funding mechanism to capitalize a nonprofit health care
12 plan and any recommended legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
13 having jurisdiction over health insurance matters. Dirigo Health may not provide access
14 to health insurance by establishing a nonprofit health care plan or through an existing
15 public plan without specific legislative approval.

16 **Sec. 2. Propose establishment of nonprofit health plan.** The Board of
17 Directors of Dirigo Health, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A, section
18 6904, shall propose the establishment of a nonprofit health care plan organized under
19 Title 13-B and authorized pursuant to Title 24, chapter 19 that would offer consumers
20 moderately priced insurance products under Dirigo Health as an alternative to those
21 currently offered through an existing public plan. Notwithstanding Title 24-A, section
22 6910, subsection 2, by December 28, 2007 the board shall submit its proposal, including,
23 but not limited to, a funding mechanism to capitalize the proposed nonprofit health care
24 plan, and any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
25 Human Services. The joint standing committee may submit legislation based upon the
26 proposal submitted by the board to the second regular session of the 123rd Legislature.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill directs the Board of Directors of Dirigo Health to propose the establishment
29 of a nonprofit health care plan that would offer consumers moderately priced insurance
30 products under Dirigo Health as an alternative to those currently offered through an
31 existing public plan. The bill directs the board to submit, by December 28, 2007, its
32 proposal, including, but not limited to, a funding mechanism to capitalize the proposed
33 nonprofit health care plan, and any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing
34 Committee on Health and Human Services. The bill further authorizes the joint standing
35 committee to submit legislation to implement the plan.