

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1639

H.P. 1148

House of Representatives, March 22, 2007

**Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services
To Implement Representative Payee and Disability Specialists
Programs**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative SCHATZ of Blue Hill.

1 **Sec. 1. Representative payee program. Resolved:** That, no later than July 1,
2 2008, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall create and implement a
3 representative payee program for the purpose of providing assistance to recipients of
4 social security or supplemental security income benefits who cannot manage or direct the
5 management of their funds. In the development of the program, the commissioner may
6 work with municipal officials that have implemented locally administered representative
7 payee programs. The commissioner shall assess and identify the most cost-effective way
8 to implement and administer the program, including, but not limited to, outsourcing the
9 administration of the program, restructuring the work assignments of existing department
10 staff or increasing department staff; and be it further

11 **Sec. 2. Disability specialists. Resolved:** That, no later than July 1, 2008, the
12 Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall create and implement a disability
13 specialist program for the purpose of assisting homeless individuals in applying for
14 supplemental security income or social security disability income benefits. In the
15 development of the program, the commissioner may work with municipal officials and
16 organizations that currently provide such a service to homeless individuals. The
17 commissioner shall assess and identify the most cost-effective way to implement and
18 administer the program, including, but not limited to, outsourcing the administration of
19 the program, restructuring the work assignments of existing department staff or
20 increasing department staff.

21

SUMMARY

22 This resolve directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to create and
23 implement by July 1, 2008 a representative payee program to provide assistance to
24 recipients of social security or supplemental security income benefits who cannot manage
25 or direct the management of their funds. This resolve also directs the Commissioner of
26 Health and Human Services to create and implement by July 1, 2008 a disability
27 specialist program to provide assistance to homeless individuals in applying for
28 supplemental security income or social security disability income benefits.