

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1714

H.P. 1197

House of Representatives, March 23, 2007

Resolve, To Expand the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative PINGREE of North Haven.
Cosponsored by President EDMONDS of Cumberland and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Newfield, LEWIN of Eliot, MILLER of Somerville, PERRY
of Calais, WALCOTT of Lewiston, WALKER of Lincolnville, Senators: RAYE of
Washington, WESTON of Waldo.

1 **Sec. 1. Improve and expand registry. Resolved:** That the Department of
2 Health and Human Services, referred to in this section as "the department," shall review
3 all state and federal criteria applicable to the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing
4 Assistants, referred to in this section as "the registry," established in the Maine Revised
5 Statutes, Title 22, section 1812-G, and develop a plan to improve and expand the registry
6 to include unlicensed assistive personnel. In developing the plan, the department shall:

7 1. Require that every nursing assistant listed in the registry is recertified every 2
8 years and that background checks are conducted every 2 years;

9 2. Implement measures designed to expand and enhance Internet access to the
10 registry to better meet the needs of the public, employers and direct care and support
11 agencies;

12 3. Convene a working group to explore methods of increasing efficiency and
13 reducing duplication of effort, including methods to encourage disclosure of the results of
14 background checks that have been conducted by the registry and privately by prospective
15 employers. The department shall invite the participation of representatives of the registry,
16 direct care and support agencies and employers;

17 4. Consider expanding the information included in the registry. In assessing the
18 information to be included, the department shall consider including general education
19 about the field of work and general information on direct care and support jobs and
20 responsibilities, including information on the differences between jobs requiring
21 certification, licensure and registration;

22 5. Provide information on job opportunities, including providing a link to career
23 center websites for information about direct care employment opportunities;

24 6. Provide information about job training opportunities and continuing education
25 opportunities;

26 7. Provide a resource guide for consumers to assist in understanding the different
27 categories of workers, types of home care agencies and the state-funded programs that
28 cover direct care services;

29 8. Provide links to organizations working to address the direct care worker shortage
30 and to improve the working conditions for direct care workers; and

31 9. Provide information about how to conduct a hiring process that helps to achieve
32 quality care; and be it further

33 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services
34 shall submit a report of its findings under section 1, together with its recommendations, to
35 the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than December 1,
36 2007.

1

SUMMARY

2 This bill requires that the Department of Health and Human Services develop a plan
3 to improve and expand the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants, established in
4 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1812-G to include unlicensed assistive
5 personnel, and present the plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
6 Services no later than December 1, 2007.