MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 721

H.P. 504

House of Representatives, February 24, 2009

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Raise Public Awareness of Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome

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

Millicent M. MacFARLAND MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative SYKES of Harrison.

Cosponsored by Representatives: LAJOIE of Lewiston, LEWIN of Eliot, SCHATZ of Blue Hill, WHEELER of Kittery, Senator: GERZOFSKY of Cumberland.

Sec. 1. Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome initiative. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish, promote and maintain a reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome education initiative to raise public awareness of, and to educate consumers, health professionals, teachers and human services providers about, the causes and nature of this syndrome, personal risk factors, the value of early detection and prompt treatment and options for diagnosing and treating the syndrome, as well as the current research and development on this subject. Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, also known as complex regional pain syndrome, is a little-known debilitating chronic disease characterized by severe intractable pain, and if misdiagnosed or left untreated can lead to total disability. In establishing this initiative, the department shall consult with health officials in the State of Delaware and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, both of which have implemented initiatives on reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome.

14

SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish, promote and maintain a reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome education initiative to raise public awareness of, and educate consumers, health professionals, teachers and human services providers about, the causes and nature of this syndrome, personal risk factors, the value of early detection and prompt treatment and options for diagnosing and treating the disease. The department is to consult with the State of Delaware and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, both of which have instituted this sort of initiative.