

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1105

S.P. 338

In Senate, March 15, 2011

**Resolve, To Study Oral Health Care in Maine and Make
Recommendations Regarding How To Address Maine's Oral Health
Care Needs**

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

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RECTOR of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland and
Senators: MARTIN of Kennebec, SHERMAN of Aroostook, SNOWE-MELLO of
Androscoggin, Representatives: DOW of Waldoboro, GILBERT of Jay, HERBIG of Belfast,
PRESCOTT of Topsham, STUCKEY of Portland.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** many Mainers face barriers to oral health care; and

2 **Whereas,** parts of each of Maine's 16 counties have been identified as federally
3 designated dental health professional shortage areas; and

4 **Whereas,** there is no single answer to addressing Maine's oral health care needs; and

5 **Whereas,** ongoing challenges to Maine's oral health care needs include
6 reimbursement, geography, personal decisions, workforce issues and many other factors;
7 and

8 **Whereas,** the Legislature has in recent years sought to address Maine's oral health
9 care needs through changes to the dental workforce and scopes of practice; and

10 **Whereas,** no comprehensive study has been completed regarding Maine's oral
11 health care needs or the effect of the legislative changes and evaluations of strategies to
12 address the outstanding needs; and

13 **Whereas,** this resolve directs the Legislature to contract with a qualified consultant
14 to conduct a study of Maine's oral health care needs; now, therefore, be it

15 **Sec. 1. Oral health care needs; study. Resolved:** That the Legislature shall
16 contract with a qualified consultant that has sufficient resources and experience to
17 conduct a study of the State's oral health care needs that examines the type and
18 geographic distribution of oral health care providers and analyzes barriers to oral health
19 care in the State. The study must specifically examine:

- 20 1. Existing public and private financial resources for oral health care in the State;
- 21 2. Limitations on access to oral health care for citizens of the State;
- 22 3. The sustainability of public financing programs for oral health care;
- 23 4. The actual and projected dental workforce needs for the State; and
- 24 5. The effect of recent changes surrounding oral health care in the State, such as the
25 development of a dental school based in the State, the creation of expanded function
26 dental assistants, dental hygienists with public health supervision status and independent
27 practice dental hygienists.

28 The study may reference or incorporate information from other relevant research; and be
29 it further

30 **Sec. 2. Funding. Resolved:** That the Legislature shall seek outside funding to
31 fully fund all costs of the study authorized in section 1. If sufficient outside funding has
32 not been received by the Legislature by July 15, 2011 to fully fund all costs of the study,
33 no expenses of any kind related to the study may be incurred. The study must be
34 completed no later than October 1, 2011 and must be submitted to the Joint Standing
35 Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development. After receipt

1 and review of the study, the joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second
2 Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

3

SUMMARY

4 This resolve directs the Legislature to contract with a qualified consultant that has
5 sufficient resources and experience to conduct a study of the State's oral health care
6 needs.