

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1032

H.P. 727

House of Representatives, March 14, 2013

**Resolve, To Direct the Department of Health and Human Services
To Convene a Task Force To Study the Incidence of Cancer in the
State**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McGOWAN of York.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, DORNEY of Norridgewock,
MOONEN of Portland, NOON of Sanford, SHORT of Pittsfield, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono.

1 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and
2 Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall within its own
3 resources establish a task force to study the high incidence of cancer in the State
4 compared to the rest of the nation and to develop a full understanding of the causes of the
5 high rates of cancer and to recommend and provide responses to this health crisis; and be
6 it further

7 **Sec. 2. Participants. Resolved:** That the department may invite interested parties
8 as needed to participate in the task force as follows:

9 1. Representatives of the medical community who specialize in cancer and cancer
10 treatment;

11 2. Members of the public who have had cancer or who have had family members
12 diagnosed with cancer;

13 3. Representatives of the scientific community who research and study cancers; and

14 4. Any other interested parties; and be it further

15 **Sec. 3. Study. Resolved:** That the study of the task force must include, but is not
16 limited to, researching and studying:

17 1. Why Maine has a higher incidence of cancer and a higher rate of cancer mortality
18 than the national average;

19 2. The degree to which the age of Maine's population and genetics contribute to the
20 high incidence of cancer;

21 3. The degree to which environmental factors, such as air, water and land pollution,
22 geography, and natural cancer-causing agents, such as radon and arsenic, contribute to
23 Maine's cancer rate;

24 4. The extent to which barriers to health care in the State contribute to cancer
25 mortality;

26 5. How preventable lifestyle risk factors, such as smoking, diet, exercise, obesity
27 and sun exposure, contribute to the high incidence of cancer; and

28 6. How the State could assist citizens through education and cancer prevention
29 programs; and be it further

30 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That, by January 15, 2014, the department shall
31 produce a written report in a distributable format of the findings of the task force and any
32 recommendations resulting from the study, which must be available to any party by
33 request, and the department shall publish and post the report on its publicly accessible
34 website.

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SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to study the high incidence of cancer in the State, ways to lower the incidence of cancer and how the State can assist its citizens through education and prevention programs. The department is directed to invite interested parties to serve on the task force and to make its findings available to the public in distributable format and online.