

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date 6/8/23

LD 915
(Filing No H-408)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P 571, L D 915, "Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services"

Amend the resolve by inserting after the title the following

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies, and

Whereas, this legislation establishes the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services, and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period so that the commission may timely meet and make its report to the Legislature, and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, now, therefore,'

Amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 2 and 3 and inserting the following

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 13 members as follows

1 Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature,

2 Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature,

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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1 3 Two members appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom must have
 2 lived experience in caring for one of the following types of individuals and one who
 3 represents the interests of at least 2 of the following types of individuals or providers of
 4 care to at least 2 of the following types of individuals

- 5 A Individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism,
- 6 B Individuals with mental health disorders or substance use disorder,
- 7 C Individuals experiencing poverty,
- 8 D Elderly individuals,
- 9 E Children receiving child welfare services, or
- 10 F Children receiving early childhood services,

11 4 Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of
 12 whom must have lived experience in caring for one of the following types of individuals
 13 and one who represents the interests of at least 2 of the following types of individuals or
 14 providers of care to at least 2 of the following types of individuals

- 15 A Individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism,
- 16 B Individuals with mental health disorders or substance use disorder,
- 17 C Individuals experiencing poverty,
- 18 D Elderly individuals,
- 19 E Children receiving child welfare services, or
- 20 F Children receiving early childhood services,

21 5 The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee,
 22 and

23 6 Two directors of offices within the Department of Health and Human Services
 24 chosen by the commissioner

25 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair
 26 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the
 27 commission '

28 Amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 5, 6 and 7 and inserting the following

29 **'Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine the organizational
 30 structure of the Department of Health and Human Services and the services provided by
 31 the department The commission shall examine

32 1 The organizational structure of and service delivery by similar agencies in other
 33 states and in nongovernmental organizations,

34 2 The strengths and weaknesses in the services provided with state and federal
 35 funding,

36 3 Current proposals for improving the safety and well-being of children and
 37 strengthening families across all populations and geographical areas of the State,

38 4 Barriers to accessing services, as well as system failures and additional needed
 39 resources, and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P 571, L D 915

1 5 Areas in which processes can be streamlined and efficiencies made within the
2 department

3 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
4 necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support
5 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session

6 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 6, 2024, the commission
7 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
8 legislation, for presentation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
9 jurisdiction over health and human services matters The committee may submit legislation
10 to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 '

11 Amend the resolve by adding before the summary the following

12 **'Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
13 takes effect when approved '

14 Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
15 section number to read consecutively

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This amendment makes the following changes to the Blue Ribbon Commission to
18 Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human
19 Services

20 1 It changes the membership of the commission

21 2 It expands the duties of the commission

22 3 It replaces staffing by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government
23 Accountability with staffing by the Legislative Council

24 4 It changes the date for the report from December 1, 2024 to November 6, 2024

25 5 It adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause

26 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

27 (See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 915

LR 259(02)

Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-408)

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$4,200 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$4,450 in fiscal year 2024-25. The Legislature's proposed budget for the 2024-2025 biennium includes \$14,500 in each of fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the costs of legislative studies, as well as \$2,234 in projected balances from fiscal year 2023 and \$36,777 of balances carried over from prior years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs of providing staffing assistance to the study during the interim can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services to take part in the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.