

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 915

H.P. 571

House of Representatives, March 2, 2023

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, MADIGAN of Waterville,
MILLETT of Waterford, TERRY of Gorham, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BENNETT
of Oxford, HICKMAN of Kennebec.

1 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Blue Ribbon Commission to
2 Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human
3 Services, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

4 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
5 353, the commission consists of 13 members as follows:

- 6 1. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the commissioner's designee;
- 7 2. Two departmental directors within the Department of Health and Human Services,
8 appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services;
- 9 3. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who are members of the
10 Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;
- 11 4. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who are
12 members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;
- 13 5. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who represents an
14 organization that advocates for individuals with disabilities;
- 15 6. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who
16 represents an organization that represents at-risk groups served by the Department of
17 Health and Human Services;
- 18 7. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who
19 represents an organization that advocates for individuals who are affected by mental health
20 disorders;
- 21 8. One member of the public appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- 22 9. One member of the public appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

23 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the first-named
24 Senate member of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the
25 first-named House member of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
26 Services shall serve as cochairs of the commission.

27 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That,
28 notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, all appointments must be made no later than 30 days
29 following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the
30 Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed.
31 After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the
32 commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not
33 all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative
34 Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

35 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine the organizational
36 structure of the Department of Health and Human Services and the services provided by
37 the department. The commission shall review the organizational structure of and service
38 delivery at similar agencies in other states and in nongovernmental organizations.

39 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Office
40 of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability shall provide support and
41 necessary staffing services to the commission.

