

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

Sole
ROS

L D 1304

Date 5/24/23

(Filing No H- 220)

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ A ” to H P 829, L D 1304, “Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Barriers to Achieving Behavioral Health Integration and Parity”

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

'Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 13 members as follows

1 Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,

2 Four members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,

3 Two members representing entities knowledgeable about or involved in providing behavioral health services, appointed by the President of the Senate,

4 Two members who are providers of behavioral health services and represent a small group practice, a federally qualified health center or a large group practice, appointed by the Speaker of the House,

5 One member from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, designated by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, and

6 One member from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance, designated by the Superintendent of Insurance '

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 5 and inserting the following

'Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall study barriers experienced by providers in attempting to deliver behavioral health services that are related to requirements imposed by health insurance carriers and the MaineCare program and develop a plan, including specific legislative recommendations, to address and remove those barriers, allowing for better integrated care and parity in behavioral health treatment. The task force shall also study ways to improve access to behavioral health treatment in all geographic

1 areas in the State and to address issues related to workforce shortages and training for
2 providers of behavioral health services '

3 Amend the resolve by inserting after section 7 the following

4 '**Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the task force may seek funding
5 contributions to partially or fully fund the costs of the study All funding is subject to
6 approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies '

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

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment makes the following changes to the Task Force to Study Barriers to
11 Achieving Behavioral Health Integration and Parity

12 1 It amends the membership to add 2 additional members who are Legislators and to
13 reduce the number of members representing other interests

14 2 It requires the inclusion of a representative of the Department of Health and Human
15 Services, Office of Behavioral Health

16 3 It clarifies that the task force should consider barriers related to requirements
17 imposed by health insurance carriers and the MaineCare program

18 4 It expands the duties of the task force to include studying increased access to
19 behavioral health treatment in all geographic areas of the State and to addressing workforce
20 and training issues

21 5 It authorizes the task force to seek outside funding to support some or all of the costs
22 of the task force

23 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

24 (See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1304

LR 1429(02)

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Barriers to Achieving Behavioral Health Integration and Parity

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-220)
Committee: Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$5,150 in fiscal year 2023-24. 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 2022-23 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 and the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to be part of the Task Force to Study Barriers to Achieving Behavioral Health Integration and Parity are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.