

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1304

H.P. 829

House of Representatives, March 23, 2023

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

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais.
Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, MADIGAN of
Waterville.

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

3 **Whereas,** this legislation establishes the Task Force to Study Barriers to Achieving
4 Behavioral Health Integration and Parity to study barriers imposed by insurers and
5 experienced by providers in attempting to deliver behavioral health services; and

6 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
7 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next
8 legislative session; and

9 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to Study Barriers
14 to Achieving Behavioral Health Integration and Parity, referred to in this resolve as "the
15 task force," is established.

16 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
17 353, the task force consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

18 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a
19 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

20 2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
21 House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
22 in the Legislature;

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

25 4. Three members who are providers of behavioral health services and represent a
26 small group practice, a federally qualified health center and a large group practice,
27 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

28 5. Three members representing entities knowledgeable about or involved in insurance
29 coverage for behavioral health treatment, including at least one member from the
30 Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance, appointed by
31 the President of the Senate.

32 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair
33 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force.

34 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
35 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
36 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
37 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
38 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more after
39 the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the
40 chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the task
41 force to meet and conduct its business.

