

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1792

S.P. 717

In Senate, April 25, 2023

Resolve, to Establish the Rural Health Services Task Force

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative ALBERT of Madawaska and
Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: BABIN of
Fort Fairfield, DILL of Old Town, GUERRETTE of Caribou, MEYER of Eliot, THERIAULT
of Fort Kent.

1 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Rural Health Services Task
2 Force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established.

3 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353,
4 the task force consists of 10 members as follows:

5 1. The Executive Director of the Office of Affordable Health Care or the executive
6 director's designee;

7 2. The director of the office of rural health and primary care within the Department of
8 Health and Human Services;

9 3. The following members appointed by the President of the Senate:

10 A. Two members from a statewide organization representing hospitals located in
11 different regions of the State and that face different levels of financial stability;

12 B. One member from a statewide organization representing primary care providers
13 working in federally qualified health centers; and

14 C. One member from a statewide organization representing physicians; and

15 4. The following members appointed by the Speaker of the House:

16 A. One member from an organization that advocates for consumers of health care that
17 use free clinic programs and other safety net programs in the State;

18 B. One member who is a provider of behavioral health services in a rural part of the
19 State;

20 C. One member from a statewide organization that represents providers of home health
21 services; and

22 D. One member from a statewide organization that represents long-term care providers.

23 **Sec. 3. Meetings; chair; quorum. Resolved:** That the Executive Director of the
24 Office of Affordable Health Care or the executive director's designee shall call the first
25 meeting of the task force. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the task force shall select a chair
26 from among its members at the first meeting. A majority of the membership of the task
27 force constitutes a quorum.

28 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall consider rural health care delivery
29 in the State, including:

30 1. Evaluating the current system of rural health care delivery in the State, including the
31 role of rural hospitals in the health care continuum;

32 2. Identifying how to ensure the sustainability of the rural health care system, including
33 identifying the major financial, administrative and workforce barriers and providing
34 technical assistance to support sustainability;

35 3. Proposing ways to overcome existing barriers to the sustainability of the rural health
36 care system, including ideas to preserve access to health care services in rural parts of the
37 State across the health care continuum;

38 4. Proposing ways to encourage and improve care coordination among institutional and
39 community service providers;

