

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**September 5, 1996 to September 7, 1996**

**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 4, 1996 to March 27, 1997**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**March 27, 1997 to June 20, 1997**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JUNE 26, 1997**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 1997**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**1997**

department shall permit people with disabilities who are on Medicaid who work at least 10 hours per week and whose employers do not offer health insurance coverage or whose health insurance coverage does not meet their health needs to purchase coverage under the Medicaid program. The waiver may also provide for the purchase of Medicaid coverage for children with disabilities whose parents work. The waiver must provide for a sliding scale fee based upon income and must be revenue-neutral. The waiver must provide that any savings be used to increase coverage for persons with disabilities. The department may adopt rules required to implement the waiver program in accordance with this resolve. Rules adopted under this resolve are routine technical rules for purposes of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

**1997-98**

**HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Bureau of Medical Services**

All Other	\$50,000
Provides funds to support a portion of the estimated cost of applying for a Medicaid waiver.	

**Sec. 3. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from the Federal Expenditure Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

**1997-98**

**HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Bureau of Medical Services**

All Other	\$50,000
Provides funds to support a portion of the estimated cost of applying for a Medicaid waiver.	

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 60**

**S.P. 556 - L.D. 1682**

**Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Transportation to Propose an Adopt-A-Highway Program**

**Preamble.** Whereas, 48 states currently have Adopt-A-Highway programs to remove litter from state highways; and

**Whereas,** the Adopt-A-Highway program represents a unique opportunity to encourage local organizations to voluntarily clean the State's highways; now, therefore, be it

**Sec. 1. Commissioner of Transportation duties. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Transportation shall review the Adopt-A-Highway programs of other states and propose a plan for implementing a similar program in Maine that encourages local organizations to assist with litter removal from the State's highways; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Transportation shall report the proposal, along with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than February 1, 1998; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Committee authority. Resolved:** That the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may, by unanimous or majority vote of the committee, report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature on an Adopt-A-Highway program.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 61**

**H.P. 1344 - L.D. 1895**

**Resolve, to Direct the State Board of Education to Study the School Funding Formula**

**Sec. 1. Committee to study school funding formula. Resolved:** That the State Board of Education shall establish a committee to study the school funding formula. The state board shall appoint 10 members to the committee, and the committee shall also coordinate its work with the state board committee studying essential programs and services. Each member appointed must be impartial and have extensive knowledge of public education and school finance policies in the State. In appointing members to the committee, the state board shall give proper consideration to achieving statewide geographical

representation, representing the diverse range of interests in public education in this State and identifying individuals with the willingness and ability to make the necessary commitment to the committee; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved:** That the committee of the State Board of Education established in section 1 shall:

1. Review and make recommendations regarding the report presented by the Commissioner of Education to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs related to the current methods used to calculate the income and cost-of-living adjustment factors. The State Board of Education shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than January 1, 1998; and

2. Review the essential programs and services plan presented by the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part X, section 1, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs for the purpose of developing an adequate and equitable method to fund essential programs and services. The state board committee shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than January 15, 1999. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill based on the state board recommendations; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Staffing and research assistance. Resolved:** That, if necessary, the State Board of Education may request staffing assistance from the Department of Education and research assistance from the Education Research Institute Steering Committee.

See title page for effective date.

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## CHAPTER 62

S.P. 498 - L.D. 1560

### **Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Study Charter Schools and School Choice**

**Sec. 1. Charter schools and school choice study. Resolved:** That the State Board of Education shall establish a committee to study charter schools and school choice initiatives developed in other states and jurisdictions. The committee shall meet at least 4 times to review the national data available, examine the charter schools and school choice legislation submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, and receive testimony from relevant sources regarding charter schools and school choice initiatives in other

states and jurisdictions. If necessary, the board may request research assistance from the Education Research Institute Steering Committee. The board shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Legislature no later than January 1, 1998.

See title page for effective date.

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## CHAPTER 63

H.P. 286 - L.D. 350

### **Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits**

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

**Whereas,** in current practice, 3rd-party payors of health care benefits use multiple claims processing systems; and

**Whereas,** other jurisdictions have begun exploring the feasibility of implementing a single claims processing system for all 3rd-party payors and are also exploring ways to streamline claims processing; and

**Whereas,** it is necessary to begin the study of the feasibility of a single claims processing system or a more streamlined system for 3rd-party payors of health care benefits in this State; and

**Whereas,** the members of the task force established by this resolve must be appointed prior to the expiration of the 90-day period; 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, be it

**Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established to study the feasibility of a streamlined claims processing system for 3rd-party payors of health care benefits and to study the feasibility of a single claims processing system for 3rd-party payors of health care benefits; and be it further