

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.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1997

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.

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.

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

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 15 members appointed as follows:

1. One representative of the Maine Medical Association or the Maine Osteopathic Association appointed by the Governor;
2. One Maine-based representative of the Health Insurance Association of America appointed by the Governor;
3. One representative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine appointed by the Governor;
4. One representative of the Home Care Alliance of Maine appointed by the Governor;
5. One representative of the interests of independent occupational, physical and speech therapists appointed by the Governor;
6. One representative of the Maine Pharmacy Association appointed by the Governor;
7. One representative of the Maine Hospital Association appointed by the Governor;
8. One representative of the Maine Association of Community Mental Health Centers appointed by the Governor;
9. One representative of the Maine Health Management Coalition appointed by the Governor;
10. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
11. The Superintendent of Insurance or the superintendent's designee; and
12. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and 2 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. One member of the Senate and one member of the House shall serve as cochairs of the task force; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than July 1, 1997. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing authorities once the selections have been made. Within 15 days of appointment of all members, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall:

1. Gather and examine information from other jurisdictions that have implemented a single claims

processing system or have implemented a streamlined claims processing system;

2. Identify barriers and problems that need to be addressed to implement a single claims processing system or to streamline the current claims processing system;

3. Determine resources necessary to implement a single claims processing system or a streamlined system and develop a model for a single claims processing system;

4. Determine the impact on health care providers and health insurance carriers in a single claims processing system or a streamlined system; and

5. Identify the necessary steps for protecting the confidentiality of medical records and proprietary information in a single claims processing system or a streamlined system; and be it further

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the task force shall request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative Council; and be it further

Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved: That the members of the task force are not entitled to any reimbursement or compensation for attendance at meetings of the task force, except that the members of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses for attendance at meetings of the task force. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall administer the task force's budget; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature no later than January 1, 1998. If the task force requires an extension, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

Sec. 8. Transfer of funds. Resolved: That the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shall transfer up to \$3,860 from the Bureau of Insurance to the Legislature toward the actual expenses incurred by the task force; and be it further

Sec. 9. Allocation. Resolved: That the following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

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

Personal Services	\$1,760
All Other	2,100
 TOTAL	 \$3,860

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and miscellaneous costs of the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective June 12, 1997.

CHAPTER 64

H.P. 1145 - L.D. 1610

Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Designate Outstanding Maine Citizens Whose Portraits Are to Be Displayed in the State House

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Maine Commission on Outstanding Citizens, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of the following 8 members:

1. One legislative member, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
2. One representative of public schools, appointed by the State Board of Education;
3. One representative from the Maine State Museum, appointed by the Director of the Maine State Museum;
4. One representative from the Governor's office, appointed by the Governor;

5. Three members of the public, appointed jointly by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House; and

6. One representative from the State House and Capitol Park Commission, appointed by the director; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing authorities once the selections have been made. Within 15 days after the completion of the appointment of all members, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. The commission shall select a chair from among its members; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall designate outstanding Maine citizens to honor by display of a portrait in the State House; and be it further

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the commission may request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council; and be it further

Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved: That all members of the commission are entitled to reimbursement for expenses as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12002, upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council for those expenses; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the commission shall submit its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature no later than January 15, 1998. If the commission requires an extension it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

Sec. 8. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

1997-98

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Maine Commission on Outstanding Citizens

Personal Services	75
All Other	2,150
 Provides funds for the per diem of the legislative member, expenses of members	