

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 2, 1998 to June 19, 1999**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 18, 1999**

**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**  
**1999**

**CHAPTER 29****H.P. 605 - L.D. 845****Resolve, Directing the Department of Human Services to Study Methods to Increase Access to Health Care for Low-income Maine People**

**Sec. 1. Study. Resolved:** That the Department of Human Services shall study methods by which funds, including federal matching funds, may be obtained to provide medical assistance to adult residents of the State with incomes below 125% of the nonfarm income official poverty line who are currently ineligible for the Medicaid program. The department shall report the findings of the study to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 31, 1999. The report must include a survey of other states that are providing health coverage to this population and how that coverage is financed. The report must also include an analysis of both the financial impact and the health risks, including long-term health costs resulting from this population being uninsured. In addition, the report must include an estimate of the number of persons in this population who are uninsured and the cost of providing coverage to them under the Medicaid program.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 30****H.P. 518 - L.D. 725****Resolve, to Study the Confidentiality of Information Regarding Persons Receiving Services Funded in Whole or in Part by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services**

**Sec. 1. Study. Resolved:** That the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall study the confidentiality of information regarding persons receiving services funded in whole or in part by the department and shall report back its findings and any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 2000. The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services may report out legislation based on the report to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature. The study must include participation from consumers and providers of services, Legislators and local service networks. The study must consider the requirements

of professional ethical standards and state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 31****H.P. 735 - L.D. 1025****Resolve, Regarding Assessment for Long-term Care**

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

**Whereas,** persons with chronic medical conditions who experience frequent acute episodes because of the nature of their conditions may qualify and disqualify for long-term care regularly and with the result of frequent disruptive changes in residence; 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. Study. Resolved:** That the Department of Human Services shall study the situations of individuals who, because of the nature of their chronic medical conditions, experience frequent acute episodes that result in multiple moves among levels of care. The time period of cases to be reviewed in the study is April 1998 to March 1999. The department shall review information concerning these individuals, their need for services, treatment and therapies and any problems resulting from frequent moves. The department shall present the preliminary results of its study to interested parties and shall consider any additional information from those interested parties in determining the need for changes in law or departmental policy or rule. The department shall present a final report, including recommendations for changes in law and departmental rule, procedures or programs, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 31, 1999. The committee may report out legislation on the assessment for long-term care as a result of receiving the study.

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

Effective May 17, 1999.