

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
September 29, 2021

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 5, 2022 to May 9, 2022

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
DECEMBER 29, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
AUGUST 8, 2022

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

Augusta, Maine
2022

**CHAPTER 180
H.P. 1020 - L.D. 1386**

**Resolve, To Improve Access to
Bariatric 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, this resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to provide bariatric care beds in the State and in developing the plan, the department must begin identifying providers who are interested in developing bariatric care beds before the 90-day period expires; 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. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan for specialized bariatric care beds. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall develop a plan to establish 4 bariatric care beds a year for 4 years in the State to serve individuals who are eligible for long-term care and need bariatric care. In developing the plan, the department shall do the following.

1. No later than August 31, 2022, the department shall convene an informal work group with the long-term care ombudsman program established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5106, subsection 11-C and representatives of a statewide organization representing nursing facilities to determine providers who are interested in developing bariatric care beds in their facilities.

2. No later than December 31, 2022, the department shall amend the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, with rate changes that build upon the resource utilization group system designed to capture the clinical intensity needs of residents occupying bariatric care beds. The rules must include appropriate weight or body mass index requirements, an enhanced rate of reimbursement to nursing facilities for residents occupying bariatric care beds and up to 30 bed hold days a year for bariatric care residents experiencing hospitalization. The rules must also include direct billing to the department by providers of durable medical equipment, transportation and behavioral health services and decrease the amount of time for processing prior authorization requests. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine

technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. No later than March 30, 2023, the department shall issue a request for proposals to award contracts to provide the first 4 bariatric care beds.

4. No later than June 30, 2023, the department shall award contracts under the request for proposals to establish the first 4 bariatric care beds. Providers who are awarded contracts must offer bariatric care beds to appropriate residents no later than September 1, 2023 and receive an enhanced rate of reimbursement pursuant to rules adopted pursuant to subsection 2.

The department shall submit a report on progress, including any necessary legislation to establish the bariatric care beds and any required funding, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than December 1, 2022.

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

Effective May 8, 2022.

**CHAPTER 181
H.P. 1357 - L.D. 1824**

**Resolve, To Establish the
Commission To Develop a Pilot
Program To Provide Legal
Representation to Families in
the Child Protection System**

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

Whereas, this resolve establishes the Commission To Develop a Pilot Program To Provide Legal Representation to Families in the Child Protection System to develop a pilot program to provide legal counsel to parents and custodians as soon as the Department of Health and Human Services has begun a safety assessment to determine if a child is at risk of harm; and

Whereas, low-income parents and custodians are unclear about their rights and the expectations of the child protection system; and

Whereas, legal counsel available at earlier stages in the child protection process has shown clear benefits to families in programs operating in other parts of the country; and

Whereas, the work of the commission must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the development of the pilot program may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; 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. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission To Develop a Pilot Program To Provide Legal Representation to Families in the Child Protection System, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

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

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

3. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

A. A member with experience as an attorney for parents who is a member of the Maine State Bar Association;

B. A member of the Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel, as recommended by the panel; and

C. A member representing the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 25-A;

4. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

A. A member representing a statewide organization providing services or representation on domestic violence issues;

B. A member representing an organization that provides free civil legal assistance statewide to residents of the State with low incomes who need assistance resolving civil legal disputes; and

C. A member representing a statewide organization representing providers of behavioral health or substance use disorder treatment;

5. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee; and

6. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee.

A member of the Justice for Children Task Force that reports to the Supreme Judicial Court, as recommended by the task force, is appointed by the Speaker of the House as a nonvoting member.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

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

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall:

1. Study programs, policies and contracts for services that provide, in other states, regions or municipalities, legal counsel to parents or custodians as soon as that state opens a safety assessment or similar initial evaluation to determine if a child is at risk of harm, rather than only after that state petitions a court;

2. Design a pilot program to provide legal counsel to parents or custodians as soon as the State opens a safety assessment to determine if a child is at risk of harm. The pilot program design must include the following:

A. The cost of the pilot program, including options for federal or grant funding;

B. An assessment of the number of additional cases to be referred for legal counsel;

C. Identification of an appropriate organization or organizations that could provide legal counsel in the pilot program;

D. A method of providing notice from the Department of Health and Human Services to the organization or organizations providing legal counsel as well as appropriate confidentiality protections; and

E. An appropriate duration of the pilot program and data required for assessment to determine regional or statewide expansion; and

3. Solicit public comment on the establishment of a pilot program.

Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative

Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than November 2, 2022, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations pursuant to section 5, including any recommendations for legislation for the pilot program, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and health and human services matters. The joint standing committees are authorized to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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

Effective May 8, 2022.

CHAPTER 182
H.P. 1451 - L.D. 1946
Resolve, Establishing the
Committee To Ensure
Constitutionally Adequate
Contact with Counsel

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

Whereas, this resolve establishes the Committee To Ensure Constitutionally Adequate Contact with Counsel to conduct a review to ensure that residents of Department of Corrections correctional and detention facilities, persons who are incarcerated in county jails and other county correctional facilities and criminal defendants in court facilities have constitutionally adequate contact with counsel; and

Whereas, the review must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the review may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; 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. Committee established. Resolved: That the Committee To Ensure Constitutionally Adequate Contact with Counsel, referred to in this resolve as "the constitutional communications committee," is established.

Sec. 2. Committee membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the constitutional

communications committee consists of 16 members appointed as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;
4. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
5. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;
6. The Executive Director of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services or the executive director's designee;
7. The president of a statewide association of sheriffs or the president's designee;
8. The president of a statewide association of criminal defense lawyers or the president's designee;
9. The president of a statewide association of prosecutors or the president's designee;
10. A representative of a civil rights organization whose primary mission includes the advancement of racial justice, appointed by the President of the Senate;
11. A representative of a civil liberties organization whose primary mission is the protection of civil liberties, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
12. A representative of a statewide prisoners' rights organization, appointed by the President of the Senate; and
13. A representative of a statewide organization whose mission includes advocating for victims and survivors of domestic violence, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the constitutional communications committee.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of committee. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the constitutional communications committee. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments