

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 25, 2023

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

Augusta, Maine
2023

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 examine the organizational structure of the Department of Health and Human Services and the services provided by the department. The commission shall examine:

1. The organizational structure of and service delivery by similar agencies in other states and in nongovernmental organizations;
2. The strengths and weaknesses in the services provided with state and federal funding;
3. Current proposals for improving the safety and well-being of children and strengthening families across all populations and geographical areas of the State;
4. Barriers to accessing services, as well as system failures and additional needed resources; and
5. Areas in which processes can be streamlined and efficiencies made within the department.

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 6, 2024, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The committee may submit legislation to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

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

Effective July 19, 2023.

CHAPTER 99
H.P. 1090 - L.D. 1701

Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

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 reestablishes the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the expiration of the 90-day period in order to provide sufficient time for the study to 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. Establishment of Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State. Resolved: That the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 17 members:

1. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:
 - A. Two members of the Senate, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;
 - B. Two members who are employed or volunteer in the field of emergency medical services, including one member who represents a community of 10,000 residents or more and one member who represents a community of fewer than 10,000 residents;
 - C. One member who represents a statewide association of emergency medical services providers;
 - D. One member who represents a private, for-profit ambulance service; and

- E. One member who represents a statewide association of municipalities;
- 2. Eight members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:
 - A. Four members of the House of Representatives, including 2 members of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and 2 members of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;
 - B. One member who represents a tribal emergency medical service;
 - C. One member who represents a volunteer emergency medical service;
 - D. One member who represents a county government; and
 - E. One member who represents a statewide association of hospitals;
- 3. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee; and
- 4. The director of Maine Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety or the director's designee.

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, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, all appointments must be made no later than 15 days following the effective date of this Act. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission, which must be no later than 30 days following the appointment of all members.

Sec. 5. Duties; meetings. Resolved: That the commission shall examine and make recommendations on the structure, support and delivery of emergency medical services in the State. The commission shall maintain communication and coordinate with Maine Emergency Medical Services as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 83, subsection 16-A so that Maine Emergency Medical Services is informed of the work of the commission and the commission is informed of the strategic planning work of Maine Emergency Medical Services. The commission may look at all aspects of emergency medical services, including but not limited to workforce development, training, compensation, retention, costs, reimbursement rates, organization and local and state support. The commission is authorized to hold a maximum of 6 meetings.

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, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than December 6, 2023, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

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

Effective July 19, 2023.

CHAPTER 100

S.P. 685 - L.D. 1722

Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities

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 Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities; and

Whereas, tobacco users are switching to electronic cigarettes, which are not included in the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement pursuant to the lawsuit *State of Maine v. Philip Morris, et al.*, Kennebec County Superior Court, Docket No. CV-97-134; and

Whereas, the switch to electronic cigarettes has diminished the payments to the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement and therefore reduced the funds received by the Fund for a Healthy Maine without reducing the harm to public health from tobacco; and

Whereas, more funds are allocated through the Fund for a Healthy Maine baseline budget than the State receives from the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, resulting in an unsustainable structural deficit in the Fund for a Healthy Maine; and

Whereas, Fund for a Healthy Maine funds are essential for funding tobacco prevention and treatment, other chronic disease prevention initiatives and health promotion efforts in the State, particularly for the benefit of children and families in the State; and