

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1856

H.P. 1186

House of Representatives, May 2, 2023

Resolve, to Study the Establishment of a MaineCare Public Health Plan

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and

Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, COLLINGS of Portland, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, PERRY of Calais, PRINGLE of Windham, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland,

Senators: BAILEY of York, GROHOSKI of Hancock.

- **Sec. 1. Study established. Resolved:** That the Office of Affordable Health Care established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3122 shall study, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, the options for establishing a MaineCare public health plan.
- **Sec. 2. Experts; staff assistance. Resolved:** That to the extent resources are available, the Office of Affordable Health Care may solicit the services of one or more outside experts to assist in the study under section 1. Upon request of the Office of Affordable Health Care, the Department of Health and Human Services; the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance; and the Department of Labor shall provide staffing assistance to complete the study.
- **Sec. 3. Recommendations. Resolved:** That, no later than January 31, 2024, the Office of Affordable Health Care shall submit a report, including suggested legislation to create the MaineCare public health plan, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. The Office of Affordable Health Care shall include in its report recommendations regarding:
- 1. Applying for waivers, exemptions and approvals from State Government and the Federal Government that are necessary to transfer health care funding from the Federal Government and from any state departments and agencies to the MaineCare public health plan;
- 2. Applying for waivers, exemptions and approvals from the Federal Government that are necessary to establish MaineCare eligibility for all full-time residents of the State, including immigrants who may not yet be United States citizens;
- 3. How to transfer to the MaineCare public health plan all state and federal funds associated with programs for which the MaineCare public health plan will assume responsibility;
- 4. How to offer the MaineCare public health plan through the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5403, along with other mechanisms of delivery;
- 5. How to offer the MaineCare public health plan through other means, including how other states may be offering a Medicaid public option plan; and
- 6. Any other recommendations necessary to implement the MaineCare public health plan.

The Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature related to the report.

36 SUMMARY

 This resolve directs the Office of Affordable Health Care to study, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, the options for establishing a MaineCare public health plan. It directs the Office of Affordable Health Care to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services no later than January 31, 2024 with its recommendations, including any suggested legislation. The committee may report out legislation related to the report.