

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

H.P. 1488 - L.D. 2209

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to Develop Innovative Models for the Delivery of Dental Services to Expand Access to Oral Health Care Throughout the State

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services development of models for expanded access to dental services. Resolved: That, based on the recommendation of the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 107, the Department of Health and Human Services shall:

1. Consider the development of a so-called hub-and-spoke model to expand access to dental services throughout the State. In developing the model, the department must include as components of the model the dental services provided by the University of New England and federally qualified health centers, mobile units and nontraditional dental care practices, such as dental care practices that are limited in scope, that provide services in areas where the population density is insufficient to support a dental provider setting up a practice;
2. Explore options to establish dental specialist residency programs in the State, especially for pediatric dentists, oral surgeons and orthodontists; and
3. Explore options to expand education and training programs for dental therapists in the State.

Sec. 2. Stakeholder participation. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall invite the participation of stakeholders to ensure that the department has the information and expertise necessary to complete the tasks identified in section 1, including, but not limited to, representatives from the University of New England College of Dental Medicine, the Maine Public Health Association, the Maine Dental Association, the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association, the Maine Oral Health Centers Alliance and dentists working in private practice who serve the oral health care needs of underserved and high-need populations. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation shall provide technical assistance to the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of the Board of Dental Practice.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than February 15, 2027, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations under this resolve, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. Each joint standing committee may report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.