

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 1208 - L.D. 1624

Resolve, To Create a Stakeholder Group To Identify the Needs of Long-term Care Family Caregivers

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

Whereas, family caregivers are critical to the health of individuals receiving long-term care assistance; and

Whereas, this resolve requires the long-term care ombudsman program to convene a stakeholder group to consider and make recommendations for the implementation of an assessment measure for the needs of family caregivers in the State; and

Whereas, this assessment must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the work 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. Long-term care ombudsman program to establish stakeholder group. Resolved: That the long-term care ombudsman program, established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5106, subsection 11-C and referred to in this resolve as "the long-term care ombudsman," shall establish a stakeholder group to consider and make recommendations for the implementation of an assessment measure for the needs of family caregivers.

Sec. 2. Stakeholder group membership. Resolved: That the long-term care ombudsman shall invite the participation of representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services, the area agencies on aging, service coordination agencies for recipients of home care services, Legal Services for the Elderly, Disability Rights Maine, the agency designated by the State to provide statewide assessments as required by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, hospitals, a statewide organization representing home care service providers and a home care service provider, as well as

family caregivers and any other interested parties, in the stakeholder group established in section 1.

Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved: That the stakeholder group established in section 1 shall consider and make recommendations for the implementation of an assessment measure of the needs of family caregivers. The stakeholder group shall consider all relevant data including data currently collected by the Department of Health and Human Services or stakeholders relating to the needs of family caregivers and family members of individuals receiving long-term care services at home for referrals for support services and resources, apparent gaps in resources and information regarding family caregiver assessment services and resources provided in other states. The stakeholder group shall also develop a plan to implement improved referrals to services for family caregivers.

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That the long-term care ombudsman shall submit a report with its findings and recommendations pursuant to section 3, along with any recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 2, 2022. The committee is authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature related to the report.

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