



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1778

H.P. 1329

House of Representatives, December 2, 2021

**An Act To Improve Health Care Affordability and Increase Options
for Comprehensive Coverage for Individuals and Small Businesses
in Maine**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on November 30, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BROOKS of Lewiston, COLLINGS of Portland,
MATHIESON of Kittery, MELARAGNO of Auburn, TEPLER of Topsham.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3122, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 459, §3, is amended by
3 enacting a new first blocked paragraph to read:

4 Beginning in 2023, the office shall analyze barriers to affordable health care and coverage
5 and develop for consideration by the legislative oversight committee proposals on potential
6 methods to improve health care affordability and coverage for individuals and small
7 businesses in the State.

8 **Sec. 2. Health care and coverage study.** The Office of Affordable Health Care,
9 established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3122, shall study the effects
10 of policies aimed at improving health care affordability and coverage, including effects on
11 the affordability of premiums and cost-sharing in the individual and small group health
12 insurance markets, and the effects of the policies on enrollment in comprehensive health
13 coverage. The office shall consider, but is not limited to considering:

- 14 1. Creating a public option health benefit plan;
- 15 2. Creating a Medicaid buy-in program;
- 16 3. Increasing enrollment in Medicaid and the federal Children's Health Insurance
17 Program, including by increasing income eligibility levels;
- 18 4. Providing state-level subsidies to populations that do not qualify for federal subsidies
19 through the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace, established under Title 22, section 5403;
20 and
- 21 5. Other policies as identified by the office and the Advisory Council on Affordable
22 Health Care, established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 31-B.

23 The office shall provide a report of its findings to the joint standing committee of the
24 Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage and insurance matters no later than
25 January 1, 2023.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill directs the Office of Affordable Health Care, beginning in 2023, to analyze
28 barriers to affordable health care and coverage and develop proposals on potential methods
29 to improve health care affordability and coverage for individuals and small businesses in
30 the State. It also requires the office to study the effects of policies aimed at improving
31 health care affordability and coverage, including effects on the affordability of premiums
32 and cost-sharing in the individual and small group health insurance markets, and the effects
33 of the policies on enrollment in comprehensive health coverage. It directs the office to
34 provide a report of its findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
35 jurisdiction over health coverage and insurance matters no later than January 1, 2023.