

**PART BBBBB**

**Sec. BBBBB-1. Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues.**

Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues, referred to in this section as "the commission," is established.

**1. Members.** The commission consists of up to 18 members as follows:

A. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

B. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature; and

C. Up to 13 members who possess expertise in the subject matter of the study as follows:

(1) A direct care worker appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) A provider of home-based long-term care who is a member of a statewide association representing home-based long-term care providers appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) A representative of a statewide association representing nonprofit housing and senior service programming appointed by the President of the Senate;

(4) A representative of an organization providing services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism including employment services and long-term home supports appointed by the President of the Senate;

(5) A provider of facility-based long-term care who is a member of a statewide association representing facility-based long-term care providers appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(6) A representative of an organization providing statewide homemaker services through the state-funded independent support services program within the Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(7) A representative of an institution of higher education engaged in workforce development appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(8) A representative of a service coordination agency providing service coordination to people receiving home-based and community-based long-term care appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(9) A representative of an organization promoting independent living for individuals with disabilities appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(10) A representative of a business that acts as a labor intermediary helping unemployed and underemployed people obtain employment appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(11) The executive director of the long-term care ombudsman program described under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5106, subsection 11-C;

(12) The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the commissioner's designee, who may be invited to participate; and

(13) The Commissioner of Labor, or the commissioner's designee, who may be invited to participate.

**2. Chairs and subcommittees.** The first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission. The chairs of the commission are authorized to establish subcommittees to work on the duties listed in subsection 4 and to assist the commission. The subcommittees must be composed of members of the commission and interested persons who are not members of the commission and who volunteer to serve on the subcommittees without reimbursement.

**3. Appointments.** All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this Part. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members and after adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this Part 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.

**4. Directive of commission.** The commission shall study and make policy recommendations in each of the following areas:

- A. Measuring current demand for direct care workers and projecting future needs;
- B. Developing a campaign and statewide recruitment strategies to encourage more people to work in facility-based and home-based long-term care;
- C. Supporting career ladders throughout various long-term care settings;
- D. Identifying education needs and methods to fill education needs for direct care workers;
- E. Identifying barriers to hiring and methods to overcome barriers to hiring;
- F. Developing strategies to improve the quality of long-term care jobs; and

G. Increasing opportunities for shared staffing among long-term care providers.

The commission shall make policy recommendations for public and private funding mechanisms to implement the commission's recommendations.

**5. Program.** The commission shall make recommendations for the establishment of a program that will contribute to long-term care direct care workers' postsecondary education in related fields.

**6. Pilot program.** The commission shall make recommendations for the establishment of a pilot program to pool part-time home care workers' hours for purposes of providing greater employment opportunity and obtaining employee benefits.

**7. Staffing.** 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.

**8. Administration.** The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the State Auditor and the State Budget Officer shall provide necessary information and assistance to the commission as required for the commission's duties.

**9. Report.** No later than November 7, 2019, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations pursuant to subsections 4 to 6, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The joint standing committee may report out a bill regarding the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.