

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 518

H.P. 336

House of Representatives, February 11, 2025

Resolve, Increasing Access to Maternal and Child Health Care

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 7, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative MEYER of Eliot. Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York. **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the end of the 90-day period in order for the study to be completed and to allow for timely reporting to the legislative committee of jurisdiction; 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. Department of Health and Human Services study. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall examine barriers to the universal referral of all pregnant or parenting individuals and families to the State's maternal and child health home visiting program, known as "CradleME," and develop recommendations for removing the barriers and increasing referrals. The department shall seek input from interested stakeholders in the development of the recommendations. No later than December 3, 2025, the department shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The joint standing committee may submit legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to examine barriers to the universal referral of all pregnant or parenting individuals and families to the State's maternal and child health home visiting program, known as "CradleME," and develop recommendations for removing the barriers and increasing referrals. The department is directed to seek input from interested stakeholders in the development of the recommendations and to make its report, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than December 3, 2025. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.