



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 915

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H.P. 571

House of Representatives, March 2, 2023

**Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the  
Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health  
and Human Services**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.  
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and  
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, MADIGAN of Waterville,  
MILLETT of Waterford, TERRY of Gorham, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BENNETT  
of Oxford, HICKMAN of Kennebec.

1           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Blue Ribbon Commission to  
2 Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human  
3 Services, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

4           **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
5 353, the commission consists of 13 members as follows:

- 6           1. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the commissioner's designee;
- 7           2. Two departmental directors within the Department of Health and Human Services,  
8 appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services;
- 9           3. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who are members of the  
10 Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;
- 11           4. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who are  
12 members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;
- 13           5. One member appointed by the President of the Senate who represents an  
14 organization that advocates for individuals with disabilities;
- 15           6. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who  
16 represents an organization that represents at-risk groups served by the Department of  
17 Health and Human Services;
- 18           7. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who  
19 represents an organization that advocates for individuals who are affected by mental health  
20 disorders;
- 21           8. One member of the public appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- 22           9. One member of the public appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

23           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the first-named  
24 Senate member of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the  
25 first-named House member of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human  
26 Services shall serve as cochairs of the commission.

27           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That,  
28 notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, all appointments must be made no later than 30 days  
29 following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the  
30 Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed.  
31 After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the  
32 commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not  
33 all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative  
34 Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

35           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine the organizational  
36 structure of the Department of Health and Human Services and the services provided by  
37 the department. The commission shall review the organizational structure of and service  
38 delivery at similar agencies in other states and in nongovernmental organizations.

39           **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Office  
40 of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability shall provide support and  
41 necessary staffing services to the commission.

1           **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 1, 2024, the commission  
2 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
3 legislation, for presentation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
4 jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The committee may submit legislation  
5 to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

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### SUMMARY

7           This resolve creates the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and  
8 Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services to examine the  
9 organizational structure of the Department of Health and Human Services and the services  
10 provided by the department and review the organizational structure of and service delivery  
11 at similar agencies in other states and in nongovernmental organizations.