

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, To Ensure Financial Management at  
the Department of Health and Human Services'**

Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 1 Department of Health and Human Services Financial Management Work Group. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall convene the Department of Health and Human Services Financial Management Work Group, referred to in this resolve as "the work group," to develop the report described in section 3 and the plan described in section 4. Employees of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Health and Human Services shall serve as chairs, cochairs and staff for the work group as needed; and be it further

**Sec. 2 Work group members. Resolved:** That the work group consists of representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Deputy Commissioner of Finance, and representatives of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, including the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, the State Controller, the State Budget Officer, the Director of the Health and Human Services Service Center and the Chief Information Officer, or their designees. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall invite 2 members of the Senate and 2 members of the House of Representatives. One Senate member and one House member must be from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs. One Senate member and one House member must be from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters; and be it further

**Sec. 3 Report. Resolved:** That the work group shall present a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than March 30, 2007. The report must include the following information as defined by and agreed to by the work group:

1. A description of specific information requirements and specific activities needed in order for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Legislature to make informed budgetary decisions, provide for effective and efficient program operations and ensure adequate financial reporting by the Department of Health and Human Services;

2. Specific timelines and assignment of responsibility related to the information requirements and activities agreed to by the work group; and

3. Recommendations for legislation necessary to prepare and implement the Department of Health and Human Services plan described in section 4 and the adjustment or realignment of accounts and programs; and be it further

**Sec. 4 Plan. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall use the information from the report in section 3 to prepare and present a plan that will assist the department and the Legislature in making informed budgetary decisions, provide for effective and efficient program operations and ensure adequate financial reporting by the department. The department shall present the plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than March 30, 2008. The plan, which the department shall implement in time to prepare the budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, must include the following:

1. Recommendations that address the information requirements identified in section 3 and the appropriate format for presenting the information;
2. Recommendations related to continuing education to ensure staff members become and remain informed about and trained in the current laws and rules governing program requirements;
3. Information on the reconciliation of all program accounts;
4. Details of an accounting structure that meets the requirements of financial accountability and reporting;
5. Recommendations for exercising due diligence to minimize any unintended consequences or disruptions in services during the transition to the new accounting structure; and
6. Recommendations for any additional legislation necessary to fully implement the plan; and be it further

**Sec. 5 Legislation authorized. Resolved:** That the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters may each report out legislation related to the adjustment or realignment of accounts and programs as well as any legislation necessary to fully implement the plan.'

## SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the resolve. The amendment creates the Department of Health and Human Services Financial Management Work Group, which is required to develop a report and a plan to assist the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Legislature in making informed budgetary decisions, providing for effective and efficient program operations and ensuring adequate financial reporting by the Department of Health and Human Services. The work group shall recommend any legislation needed to implement the plan. It directs that employees of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Health and Human Services convene, chair and staff the work group and lists the parties to be represented on the work group. It requires the work group to present the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by March 30, 2007 and outlines the contents of the report. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare and present a plan, which must be implemented in time to prepare the budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, to the 2 committees by March 30, 2008. It authorizes the 2 committees to report out legislation related to the adjustment or realignment of accounts and programs and any legislation necessary to fully implement the plan.