



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1228

H.P. 889

House of Representatives, March 14, 2019

**Resolve, Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services
To Create a Limited Benefit MaineCare Card for Individuals
Eligible for the Medicare Savings Program**

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and
Representatives: HEAD of Bethel, HYMANSON of York, KORNFIELD of Bangor, PERRY
of Calais, SCHNECK of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay, TEPLER of Topsham, Senator:
MOORE of Washington.

1 **Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to create a limited**
2 **benefit MaineCare card. Resolved:** That, no later than January 1, 2020, the
3 Department of Health and Human Services shall create a limited benefit MaineCare card
4 for individuals who qualify for the Medicare Savings Program. If the department
5 determines that an individual is eligible for the Medicare Savings Program, also known as
6 the Medicare Buy-in Program, as a Qualified Medicare Beneficiary, a Specified Low-
7 income Medicare Beneficiary or a Qualifying Individual, the department shall issue the
8 limited benefit MaineCare card to the individual for use with providers of services,
9 including but not limited to pharmacies, medical providers, hospitals, primary care
10 providers and behavioral health providers, referred to in this resolve as "the providers."
11 The card serves as notification to providers that the cardholder is eligible for the
12 Medicare Savings Program. The department shall monitor the implementation of the
13 limited benefit MaineCare card to assess the ease of use for both the cardholder and the
14 providers.

15 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services
16 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
17 over health and human services matters describing the implementation of the limited
18 benefit MaineCare card under section 1 and including data regarding the ease of use by
19 cardholders and providers for the first full year. The report must be submitted by
20 February 1, 2021.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to create a new
23 limited benefit MaineCare card for individuals who qualify for the Medicare Savings
24 Program, also known as the Medicare Buy-in Program. The department must issue the
25 card to qualified individuals for use at pharmacies and providers of medical, behavioral
26 health and other services. The department must assess the ease of use of the card to
27 cardholders and providers of services and submit a report regarding the limited benefit
28 MaineCare card to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
29 over health and human services matters by February 1, 2021.