



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

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Legislative Document

No. 2209

H.P. 1488

House of Representatives, February 10, 2026

**Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to  
Develop Innovative Models for the Delivery of Dental Services to  
Expand Access to Oral Health Care Throughout the State**

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Reported by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery for the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 107, section 8.

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

**Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services development of models for expanded access to dental services. Resolved:** That, based on the recommendation of the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 107, the Department of Health and Human Services shall:

1. Consider the development of a so-called hub-and-spoke model to expand access to dental services throughout the State. In developing the model, the department must include as components of the model the dental services provided by the University of New England and federally qualified health centers, mobile units and nontraditional dental care practices, such as dental care practices that are limited in scope, that provide services in areas where the population density is insufficient to support a dental provider setting up a practice; and

2. Explore options to establish dental specialist residency programs in the State, especially for pediatric dentists, oral surgeons and orthodontists.

**Sec. 2. Stakeholder participation. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall invite the participation of stakeholders to ensure the department has the information and expertise necessary to complete the tasks identified in section 1, including, but not limited to, representatives from the University of New England College of Dental Medicine, the Maine Public Health Association, the Board of Dental Practice, the Maine Dental Association and the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association.

**Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than February 15, 2027, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations under this resolve, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. Each joint standing committee may report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

## SUMMARY

This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 107 to implement a recommendation from the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry. The joint standing committee has not taken a position on the substance of this bill. By reporting this bill out, the joint standing committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of this bill; instead, the joint standing committee is reporting the bill out for the sole purpose of having a bill printed that can be referred to a joint standing committee for an appropriate public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal course. The joint standing committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals contained in the bill.

Based on the recommendation of the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 107, the bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to consider the development of a hub-and-spoke model to expand access to dental services throughout the State and to explore options to establish dental specialist residency

1 programs in the State, especially for pediatric dentists, oral surgeons and orthodontists. The  
2 bill requires the department to invite the participation of stakeholders, including, but not  
3 limited to, representatives from the University of New England College of Dental  
4 Medicine, the Maine Public Health Association, the Board of Dental Practice, the Maine  
5 Dental Association and the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association. The bill requires the  
6 department to submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including  
7 suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction  
8 over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters and the joint standing  
9 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters  
10 no later than February 15, 2027 and authorizes each joint standing committee to report out  
11 legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.