

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)

2 SECOND REGULAR SESSION

3
4 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

5
6 Legislative Document

No. 2309

7
8 S.P. 851

In Senate, March 19, 1984

9 Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule
10 24.

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent
11 down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Najarian of Cumberland.

Cosponsor: Representative Kelleher of Bangor.

12
13 STATE OF MAINE

14
15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR

17
18 AN ACT to Abolish the Catastrophic
19 Illness Program.
20

21 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
22 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
23 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

24 Whereas, the cost of the Catastrophic Illness
25 Program has persistently exceeded the program budget
26 over the past 3 years; and

27 Whereas, this overrun has occurred despite de-
28 creases in eligibility levels caused by recently en-
29 acted stricter financial eligibility requirements
30 which limit the eligible population to about 10% of
31 its prior level; and

32 Whereas, the hospital financing system to be ad-
33 ministered by the Maine Health Care Finance Commis-
34 sion will soon ensure that all payers share fairly in

1 payment for hospital services for those people cur-
2 rently covered by the Catastrophic Illness Program;
3 and

4 Whereas, appropriations not set aside for the
5 Catastrophic Illness Program may be allocated to oth-
6 er programs that reach high priority populations in
7 need of human services; and

8 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
9 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
10 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
11 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
12 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore,

14 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
15 follows:

16 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3185, as amended by PL 1983, c.
17 460, §1, is repealed.

18 Sec. 2. Transition clause. As of March 31, 1984,
19 the department will no longer accept applications for
20 the Catastrophic Illness Program under the Revised
21 Statutes, Title 22, section 3185. No one, including
22 people eligible for assistance under the program,
23 those who are spending down and those whose program
24 applications have not been finally acted on, shall
25 receive program benefits after March 31, 1984. The
26 department will pay providers of services under the
27 Catastrophic Illness Program for reimbursable ex-
28 penses incurred before April 1, 1984, by eligible re-
29 cipients, if the providers submit those bills to the
30 department before April 1, 1985.

31 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency
32 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect on
33 March 31, 1984.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

 Last year, state fiscal year 1983, the Catastrophic Illness Program cost \$2,945,750 and served 143 people. This bill ends that program and allows the same amount of money allocated to the Department of Human Services to be used for programs that benefit more people.

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