



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

H.P. 544

House of Representatives, February 15, 2005

No. 767

An Act To Improve the Affordability of Health Insurance

Reference to the Committee on Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative GLYNN of South Portland. Cosponsored by Representatives: LINDELL of Frankfort, McKANE of Newcastle, RICHARDSON of Warren, VAUGHAN of Durham, Senator: MILLS of Somerset.

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §2752, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1997, c. 616, §4, is further amended to read:

Procedures before legislative committees. б 2. Whenever a legislative measure containing a mandated health benefit is proposed, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having 8 jurisdiction over the proposal shall hold a public hearing and 10 determine the level of support for the proposal among the members of the committee. If there is support for the proposed mandate 12 among a majority of the members of the committee, the committee may refer the proposal to the Bureau of Insurance for review and 14an evaluation pursuant to subsection 3. Once a review and an evaluation has have been completed, the committee shall review the findings of the bureau. 16 A proposed mandate may not be enacted into law unless <u>a</u> review and <u>an</u> evaluation pursuant to subsection 3 has have been completed and the rate of increase in 18 the Consumer Price Index for medical care services meets the standard set forth in subsection 4. 20

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Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §2752, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

24 **4.** Consumer Price Index for medical care services. A proposed mandate may not be enacted into law unless the rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index for medical care services as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics remains at zero or below zero for 2 consecutive years. The superintendent shall file an annual report with the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health insurance matters no later than the last day of January certifying the rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index for medical services for the previous year.

SUMMARY

38 This bill prohibits the adoption of new health insurance mandates unless the rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index 40 for medical care services remains at zero or less than zero for 2 consecutive years.