

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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There was considerable discussion about the amounts expended to promote unionization, and how often prohibited practices occurred.

1511

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT DEMONSTRATIONS OF ADULT DAY CARE AND OTHER SERVICES THROUGH LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Sen. Bustin

OIP-A
HSE-ENACT.
SEN-ENACT.
GOV-SIGNED
PL 1983, c. 545

SUMMARY: The bill required the Bureau of Maine's Elderly to select and fund programs for adult day care offered through existing long-term-care facilities. These programs would offer an alternative to institutionalization, and provide assistance to family members so they can work or have respite from in-home care. The services provided during the day could include food, medication, laundry, various forms of therapy and other supplemental services. The programs would serve 32 frail elderly in different areas of the state.

Since this is a demonstration project, the Commissioner of Human Services is to make a report on the project to the Health and Institutional Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee before January 31, 1985.

The Committee Amendment (S-139) clarified some terms used in the bill, and required that the assessment of eligibility be done by DHS, rather than by Area Agencies on Aging. It also reduced the first year appropriation, to be 75% of the second-year appropriation.

The Senate Amendment (S-241) reduced both appropriations even further.

1538

AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKING IN NURSING HOMES

Sen. Bustin

HSE-ENACT.
SEN-ENACT.
GOV-SIGNED
PL 83, c. 293

SUMMARY: In this new draft of LD 1254, the bill was simplified to limit smoking to designated areas of nursing homes. "Patients" were also called "residents."

1539

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE THIRD-PARTY PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM ACT

Sen. Twitchell

HSE-ENACT.
SEN-ENACT.
GOV-SIGNED
PL 83, c. 405

The new draft of LD 621 clarified some provisions, for example including other programs administered by the Department of Human Services besides the Drugs for the Elderly Program, and simplified the section on denial of payment. It established a reimbursement rate of \$3.40 (the Blue Cross rate), to be indexed to the Consumer Price Index and changed annually but not by more than 10%. Other previous sections on fiduciary and bonding requirements, cancellation, interest, penalties, etc., were eliminated.