

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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One House Amendment (H-209) tied the reimbursement rate to the state's Medicaid dispensing fee; this was not adopted. House Amendment H-271 deleted the legislative intent section, and changed the reimbursement section completely by specifying only that 3rd party prescription programs are prohibited from charging a registration fee or other fixed charges except to cover expenses of equipment and materials.

1542 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PHYSICIANS Sen. Bustin HSE-ENACT.  
CHIROPRACTORS AND PODIATRISTS SEN-ENACT.  
TO POST THEIR POLICY REGARDING GOV-SIGNED  
THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF MEDICARE PL 83, c. 325  
ASSIGNMENTS

SUMMARY: The new draft of LD 811 required the posting of information on the acceptance of Medicare assignment by allopathic and osteopathic physicians, chiropractors and podiatrists after January 1, 1984.

1550 AN ACT TO LICENSE HOME HEALTH Sen. Bustin MAJ-OTP-A  
CARE SERVICES MIN-ONTP  
HSE-ENACT.  
SEN-ENACT.  
GOV-SIGNED  
PL 83, c. 570

SUMMARY: The bill required that as of July 1, 1984, all home health entities would have to be licensed by the Department of Human Services. It defined the types of licenses and their provisions, standards and fees for licensure, and those excluded from licensure, such as sole practitioners, family members and public health nurses. It also established a Home Care Council.

There was much discussion about the concept of licensing, how and whether it would affect the quality of services, and its costs, and also whether the definition of the services provided was too broad (as DHS contended).

The Committee Amendment (S-180) clarified the definitions section and established a new category, "health care provider." The exclusions from licensing were also broadened, and a longer period was allowed for the development of the licensing standards. Because DHS agreed to develop a Home and Long-term Care Committee, the more limited Home Care Council provided in the bill was deleted.

The Senate Amendment (S-202) added a fiscal note to the bill; the House Amendment (H-403) deleted the department's authority to void a conditional license. Another House Amendment (H-370), which added an appropriation, was not adopted.