

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1312

H. P. 904

House of Representatives, February 13, 1963

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Lincoln of Bethel.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

**AN ACT Relating to Optometric Services Under Aid to the Blind and Nonprofit
Hospital Organizations Laws.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 25, § 298, sub-§ I, amended. Subsection I of section 298 of chapter 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

I. Aid to the blind. The words "aid to the blind" mean money payments to, or medical care and **optometric services** in behalf of or any type of remedial care in behalf of, blind individuals who are needy, but do not include any such payments to or care in behalf of any individual who is an inmate of a public institution, except as a patient in a medical institution, or any individual who is a patient in an institution for tuberculosis or mental diseases, or who has been diagnosed as having tuberculosis or psychosis and is a patient in a medical institution as a result thereof.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 25, § 305, amended. The first sentence of section 305 of chapter 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'Applicants for aid under the provisions of sections 298 to 318 shall be examined by an ophthalmologist, a physician skilled in diseases of the eye, or an optometrist approved or designated by the department.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 25, § 306, amended. The last sentence of section 306 of chapter 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'The supplementary services may include necessary traveling and other expenses to receive **optometric**, medical, surgical, clinical or hospital treatment as may be approved by the department, or to pay for such **services or** treatment.'

Sec. 4. R. S., c. 60, § 244, amended. Section 244 of chapter 60 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows :

'Sec. 244. Scope. Any corporation organized under special act of the Legislature, or under chapter 54 for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and operating a nonprofit hospital service plan whereby hospital care is to be provided by a hospital, or a group of hospitals, with which such corporation has a contract for such purpose, or such corporation as may establish, maintain and operate a nonprofit medical service plan whereby medical or surgical or **optometric** service or expense indemnity is provided to such persons or groups of persons as shall become subscribers to such plan under contracts with said corporation, may be licensed by the commissioner on the terms and conditions provided for in sections 245 to 257.'

Sec. 5. R. S., c. 60, § 245, amended. The last paragraph of section 245 of chapter 60 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows :

'There shall be not less than 7 directors and at least a majority of the directors of such corporation must be at all times administrators, incorporators, trustees or members of the clinical staff of the hospital or hospitals which have contracted with such corporation to render hospital service to the subscribers and the physicians and **optometrists** who have contracted with such corporation to render medical, surgical, obstetrical, **optometric** or related professional service to the subscribers.'

Sec. 6. R. S., c. 60, § 246, amended. Section 246 of chapter 60 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows :

'Sec. 246. Contracts. Such corporation mentioned in section 244 may enter into contracts for the rendering of hospital service to the subscribers only with hospitals approved by the departments of health and welfare of the several states. All contracts for hospital service issued by such corporation shall constitute direct obligations of the hospital or hospitals with which such corporation has contracted for hospital care. Contracts issued under the medical service plan shall provide that the private physician-patient relationship shall exist between the patient and physician, that the patient shall have a free choice of any physician or **optometrist** able and willing to perform medical or **optometric** service and may provide for medical expense indemnity, all of which shall be based upon definite agreements covering medical or surgical care provided through duly licensed physicians. All contracts for medical, surgical, **optometric**, obstetrical and related professional service issued by such corporation shall constitute a direct obligation of any physician or **optometrist** with which such corporation has contracted for professional services, said obligation being to the subscriber accepted for service. Any such physician or **optometrist** ~~however~~ shall be free to refuse service for appropriate professional reasons. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit reciprocal arrangements for the exchange of hospital, medical or surgical service between nonprofit hospital and medical service plans.'

Sec. 7. R. S., c. 60, § 247, sub-§ III, amended. Subsection III of section 247 of chapter 60 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 6 of chapter 346 of the public laws of 1959, is amended to read as follows :

III. Proposed contracts. Proposed contracts between the corporation and participating hospitals and physicians **or optometrists** showing the terms under which the hospital, medical or surgical **or optometric** service is to be furnished to subscribers;'

Sec. 8. R. S., c. 60, § 247-A, sub-§ II, amended. Subsection II of section 247-A of chapter 60 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 7 of chapter 346 of the public laws of 1959, is amended to read as follows:

II. Contracts. The contracts between the applicant and the participating hospitals or physicians **or optometrists** obligate each participating party to render service to which each subscriber may be entitled under the terms of the contract issued to the subscribers.'