

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to H.P. 246, L.D. 299, Bill,
"AN ACT Establishing a Fee-for-Service System for the Diagnostic
Laboratory, Department of Health and Welfare."

Amend said Bill by striking out everything after the
enacting clause and before the Statement of Fact and inserting
in place thereof the following:

'22 MRSA §562, as amended by PL 1971, c. 466, §1, is further
amended to read:

§562. Superintendent; appointment; duties; fees charged for
certain services; certain services free

The department shall appoint a superintendent of such
laboratory, who shall hold that position at the pleasure of
the department. He shall keep a record of all specimens
sent to him for examination, and examine these specimens without
unnecessary delay, and do such other work and make such other
investigations relating to the public health as said department
may from time to time direct. ~~The services of the laboratory
and all investigations made shall be free to the people of the
State, except that the department, subject to the approval of
the Governor and Council, may fix charges when deemed advisable
or necessary.~~

The department shall charge the average costs for certain
services rendered by the diagnostic laboratory. Costs shall be
recalculated at least annually and imposed with the approval of
the Governor and Council. The department is directed to establish
a dedicated revenue account for fees derived from microbiological
testing to be used for conducting such testing.

Services considered to be essential to the maintenance of
the public health, including but not limited to services
related to the diagnosis of tuberculosis and venereal disease,
shall be provided free to the people of the State.

~~The department may make a charge, not to exceed \$2, for chem-
ical and bacteriological examination of private water supplies.
All such fees collected shall be credited to the General Fund.~~

Statement of Fact

It is the purpose of this amendment to direct the diagnostic laboratory of the Department of Health and Welfare to become financially self-sufficient, insofar as possible, by allowing the laboratory to charge fees for service. It is proposed that the diagnostic laboratory be permitted to charge an average cost for certain of its services. These fees shall be placed in a specific dedicated revenue account to be used for these services.

Certain services considered to be essential to the maintenance of the public health, such as those related to the diagnosis of tuberculosis and venereal disease, will continue to be provided at public expense.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Health and Institutional Services.

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(Filing No. H-580)