

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-749)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1023, L.D. 1302, Bill,
"AN ACT Relating to the Freedom of Subscribers to Hospital,
Medical Service or Health Care Plans to Choose a Psychologist
to Provide Mental Health Services."

Amend said Bill in that part designated "§2303." in
subsection 2 by striking out all of the first underlined
sentence and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Notwithstanding any provision of a contract between a sub-
scriber and a nonprofit hospital or medical service organization
entered into pursuant to a hospital service plan, medical
service plan or health care plan authorized under this
chapter, and notwithstanding any other provision of this
chapter, whenever the contract provides for payment or
reimbursement for mental health services, payment or reimburse-
ment for the provision of these services shall not be denied
because the services are provided by a contracting licensed
psychologist who is trained and received a doctorate in
psychology specializing in the evaluation and treatment of
human behavior, acting within the scope of his or her license.
Subject to approval by the Superintendent of
Insurance pursuant to ~~←~~ ~~→~~ sections 2305 and 2316, a
nonprofit hospital or medical service organization incorporated
under this chapter shall offer contracts to psychologists
licensed pursuant to Title 32, section 3831, subsection 2,
authorizing the provision of mental health services by

psychologists within the scope of this licensure, if the nonprofit hospital or medical service organization provides mental health services in contracts with subscribers. This subsection shall apply to all contracts between a subscriber and a nonprofit hospital or medical service organization entered into or renewed after January 1, 1976.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "§2303." by striking out all of subsection 3 and inserting in place thereof the following:

'3. Nothing in subsection 2 shall be construed to require a nonprofit hospital or medical service organization to provide contract coverage for mental health services.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that adequate mental health services are made available to the people of Maine by permitting subscribers to health insurance plans to choose a psychologist to provide mental health services. This amendment also responds to and cures certain constitutional objections raised by the Attorney General's Office. A further purpose of this amendment is to restrict the handling of mental health clients to only psychologists who are qualified by experience and training.

Filed by Mrs. Clark of Freeport.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
6/13/75

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