

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2012

S. P. 637 In Senate, January 20, 1976
Referred to Committee on Business Legislation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary
Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT Concerning Insurance Coverage for Blind Persons.

Emergency preamble. Whereas Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment, unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the regular session of the 107th Legislature enacted chapter 255 of the public laws of 1975, "An Act to Prevent Unfair Discrimination Against Blind Persons Seeking Insurance Coverage;" and

Whereas, this Act permitted insurers to exclude payment of benefits arising from losses directly resulting from blindness; and

Whereas, it is imperative for the financial protection of blind persons that insurers not be able to deduct these types of losses; and

Whereas, the welfare of Maine's blind citizens requires immediate legislative action to provide this financial protection; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

24-A MRSA § 2159-A, last sentence, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 255, is repealed as follows:

~~Any such insurer may exclude from policies covering persons who are blind the payment of benefits arising from losses that result directly from the fact that such person is blind~~

~~Emergency clause: In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.~~

STATEMENT OF FACT

~~This bill prohibits insurers from excluding from policies covering blind persons the payment of benefits arising from losses that result directly from the person's blindness.~~