

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1496

H. P. 1268

House of Representatives, April 11, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Authorizing Expenditures for Health Care Alternatives.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 3172, sub-§ 2 is enacted to read:

2. Home health care. "Home health care" means nursing services and other therapeutic services provided without a requirement that hospitalization should be an antecedent to care and provided on an intermittent visiting basis to individuals in their homes or other place of residence, excluding hospitals, extended care facilities, rehabilitation centers and skilled nursing homes. In addition to skilled nursing, these services may include physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, medical social services, home health aide services and such other services and standards of care as may be defined by the department which are pursuant to, consistent with and necessary to the administration of home health care within the intent of section 3173.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA § 3173, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

The department is authorized and empowered to make all necessary rules and regulations, consistent with the laws of the State of Maine, for the administration of these programs including, but not limited to, establishing conditions of eligibility and types and amounts of aid to be provided and defining the term "medically indigent," and the type of medical care to be rendered, provided that the medical assistance program shall have as one of its priorities developing and financially supporting the provision of preventive health and home health care in order to provide more effectively a com-

prehensive range of alternative types of health care responsive to the needs of Maine citizens. To meet the expenses of emphasizing preventive and home health care, the department is authorized to expend respectively for each type of care no less than 1.5% of the total sum of all funds available to administer medical or remedial care and services eligible for participation under the United States Social Security Act, Title XIX and amendments and successors to it.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services, Medical Care Account, for the provision of additional home health care, the sum of \$500,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows :

	1977-78	1978-79
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Medical Care Account		
All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000

Any unexpended balance remaining on June 30, 1978 and 1979 shall not lapse, but shall remain a continuing carrying account to pay for any valid accounts for services rendered prior to January 1, 1980.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The medical care program as now administered by the Department of Human Services does not adequately emphasize preventive health, home health and other health care alternatives. Currently, under the medical care program less than 1% of the expenditures are for home health care.

The estimated expenditure for medical care and nursing home care in fiscal year 1978-79 is \$111,000,000. Currently, 70% of those expenditures pay for care by hospitals, physicians and nursing homes.

This Act authorizes greater emphasis to be placed on providing a comprehensive range of alternative types of health care including preventive health and home health care.