

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 591

H. P. 525

House of Representatives, February 3, 1981

Submitted by the Workers' Compensation Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Referred to the Committee on Labor. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Theriault of Fort Kent.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Abolish the Panel of Physicians under the Workers' Compensation Act.

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

39 MRSA § 52, 2nd sentence, as amended by PL 1977, c. 612, § 4, is further amended to read:

An injured employee shall have the right to make his own selection of a physician or surgeon authorized to practice as such under the laws of the State ~~from a panel of physicians and surgeons selected by the Workers' Compensation Commission, for the services set forth.~~

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill enables the injured employee to select any physician or surgeon duly licensed to practice in Maine without first having to ascertain whether the particular practitioner is also commission approved. The bill is an explicit recognition that the State Board of Registration of Physicians is better equipped to authorize competent persons to practice medicine and that the Workers' Compensation Commission need not evaluate the individual qualifications of the state's physicians in authorizing specialized medical care for the injured employee. There is no such panel of physicians at the present time.