

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 831

H. P. 706

House of Representatives, February 12, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative MacBride of Presque Isle.

Cosponsor: Representative Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for Meaningful Annual Review of Fees for Dental Services Provided under the Maine Medical Assistance Program.

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

22 MRSA § 3173, as repealed and replaced by PL 1979, c. 127, § 144, is amended by adding at the end 3 new paragraphs to read:

During the annual review of the dental fee schedule required by this section, the department shall consult with individual dentist providers and their representative associations in order to establish fair, reasonable and adequate fees to be paid to dentists participating in the Medical Assistance Program. In setting dental fees under this section, the department shall consider, among other factors, the cost of providing specific dental services, the effect of inflation or other economic factors on the adequacy of the existing fee schedule and its obligation under the federal Medicaid program to ensure sufficient dentist provider participation in the program.

The annual dentist fee schedule modifications shall be considered proposed rules and the Maine Administrative Procedures Act and shall be subject to the rulemaking provisions contained in Title 5, sections 8051 to 8058.

The annual review of dental fee schedules as required by this section shall be conducted by the department sufficiently in advance of the beginning of each

legislative session so that any budgetary changes required by modification of the dental fee schedule can be submitted timely to the Legislature for consideration.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to establish a procedure for conducting the annual review of dental fee schedules, as already required by Title 22, section 3173. The present dental fee schedule has been in effect since 1969. This bill will assure that the fees established in that fee schedule are fair, reasonable and adequate, not only for the participating dentists but also the State, and will ensure that high quality dental services continue to be made available to persons eligible for such services under the Maine Medical Assistance Program.