

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1060

S. P. 360

In Senate, February 27, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Gill of Cumberland.

Cosponsor: Representative Richard of Madison.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the Laws Relating to Group and Blanket Health Insurance.

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

24-A MRSA § 2841 is enacted to read:

§ 2841. Optional coverage for optometric services

Every insurer which issues, or issues for delivery in this State, group health policies which provide coverage on an expense-incurred basis for the services of a "physician" or "doctor" shall make available that coverage for the comparable services of an optometrist to the extent the services are within the lawful scope of practice of an optometrist licensed to practice in this State.

STATEMENT OF FACT

At this time, optometrists are not always reimbursed by the insurer for services rendered within the scope of the optometrist licensure where those services would be reimbursed if rendered by a "physician" or ophthalmologist. This statute ensures that the individual has an effective right to choose the professional with whom he treats, and that when the professional chosen is an optometrist, that the optometrist will be reimbursed for services which are within the scope of the health coverage and within the lawful scope of practice of an optometrist licensed to practice in the State.