

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 872

6
7 S.P. 284

In Senate, February 24, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent
9 down for concurrence and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Brown of Washington.

Cosponsors: Representative Melendy of Rockland, Senator Perkins of
11 Hancock and Representative Armstrong of Wilton.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Promote Work-site High Blood
18 Pressure Programs for Maine Workers.
19

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

22 22 MRSA c. 273 is enacted to read:

23 CHAPTER 273

24 HYPERTENSION

25 §1697. Work-site high blood pressure programs

26 The Bureau of Health shall establish work-site
27 high blood pressure programs at work sites that have
28 not previously been providing regular high blood
29 pressure programs to their employees in order to
30 screen all employees, detect and confirm those who
31 have elevated blood pressures, refer those with ele-

1 vations to physicians for diagnosis and treatment and
2 continue contact through the year with employees to
3 determine their progress toward blood pressure con-
4 trol. The bureau shall promote new work-site high
5 blood pressure programs for state workers, allocate
6 funds for program operation and periodically evaluate
7 program effectiveness.

8 §1698. Providers of work-site high blood pressure
9 programs

10 The Bureau of Health shall actively seek health
11 care providers throughout the State to participate in
12 identifying state workers with high blood pressure
13 and helping them control their disease through
14 physician-prescribed treatment regimen. Standards of
15 quality and criteria for awarding service contracts
16 to health care providers shall be based on recom-
17 mendations developed in partnership with the Maine
18 High Blood Pressure Council, a statewide voluntary
19 health council. The objective of these criteria will
20 be to achieve high quality, cost-effective health
21 programs which comply with state and federal stan-
22 dards.

23 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are
24 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
25 purposes of this Act.

26 1983-84 1984-85

27 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

28 Bureau of Health

29 All Other

\$40,000 \$40,000

31 STATEMENT OF FACT

32 The purpose of this bill is to establish new
33 work-site programs for high blood pressure detection,
34 education, referral and follow-up services for 12,000
35 state workers.

1 The Statewide Hypertension Prevalence Survey of
2 1981 showed that 24% of Maine adults are
3 hypertensive. Since this disease has no symptoms, it
4 can be detected only through a blood pressure test.
5 The work site is the most effective place to reach
6 workers because of lower program costs to the
7 employer, reduced work time lost and increased parti-
8 cipation due to coworker support.

9 The Federal Preventive Health and Health Services
10 block grant funds for high blood pressure control
11 have been cut back 25% in the past 2 years. The
12 state appropriation will support approximately 66% of
13 the total cost of the new work-site programs, with
14 the remaining costs covered by the employers, employ-
15 ees and other appropriate community resources.

16 The predicted results of this 2-year initiative
17 will be the prevention of 48 premature deaths and
18 over 50 nonfatal heart attacks and strokes among
19 working-aged people over the next several years.
20 Prevention of only 7 of these events every year could
21 save approximately \$150,000 annually in health care
22 costs for Maine citizens through identification and
23 control of hypertension before its acute disease
24 stage.

25 An appropriation of \$80,000 from the General Fund
26 for fiscal years 1983-84 and 1984-85 is required to
27 establish the program.

28

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