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Legislative	Document				No. 2
S.P. 92				In Senate,	January 30, 19
Referen ordered prin	ce to the Committ ted.	ee on Busin	ess and (	Commerce s	suggested and
		JOY J	J. O'BRI	EN, Secreta	ary of the Sena
Cospon	V Senator Kany of sored by Senator I Senator Matthews	Hichens of Y	íork, Re ec.	presentative	Michael of
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	N ACT to Pro- Speech-la Audiology in	anguage l	Pathol	ogy and	
Be it en follows:	acted by the	People o	of the	State c	of Maine a
Sec.	1. 24 MRSA	§2303-C	is en	acted to	read:
<u>§2303-C.</u>					
	an audiolo	gist or :	speech	patholo	gist
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vices has contracted with the organization under terms and conditions which the organization deems satisfactory to its membership.

## 4 Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §2841-A is enacted to read:

## 5 §2841-A. Optional coverage for services performed by 6 an audiologist or speech pathologist

7 Every insurer which issues for delivery in this State, group health policies which provide coverage 8 9 on an expense-incurred basis for the service of a "physician" or "doctor" to residents of this State shall make available to all groups coverage for those 10 11 services when performed by an audiologist or speech 12 13 pathologist, to the extent the services are within the scope of the practice of an audiologist or speech 14 15 pathologist licensed to practice in this State.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

17 The purpose of this bill is to require insurers 18 and nonprofit hospital or medical service organiza-19 tions that issue group health policies to make avail-20 able optional coverage for the services of a licensed audiologist or licensed speech pathologist. Audiolo-21 22 gists and speech-language pathologists provide diag-23 nostic evaluations and therapeutic services to those with speech, language and hearing problems. This 24 25 bill does not mandate benefits, instead it enacts optional coverage that is available for purchase from 26 27 the insurer or organization, just as optional cover-28 age is now available for optometric and chiropractic 29 services.

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