

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 590

6
7 S.P. 228

In Senate, February 19, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
9 suggested and ordered printed.

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

Presented by Senator Gill of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsored by Manning of Portland, Senator Brown of Washington
and Representative Murphy of Kennebunk.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT Requesting Upgrading Fees Paid
18 Providers of Dental Services under the
19 Medical Assistance Program.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3173, as amended by PL 1981, c.
24 329, §§1 and 2, is further amended by adding at the
25 end a new paragraph to read:

26 The department shall increase the fees contained
27 in its fee schedule for dental services by 18% effec-
28 tive July 1, 1985. The increase need not be made
29 equally for all fees set forth in the fee schedule
30 but shall be equitably apportioned by the department
31 in a manner resulting in a net increase in dental
32 fees paid under the Medical Assistance Program by
33 18%.

34 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are
35 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
36 purposes of this Act.

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1985-86

1986-87

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Medical Care - Payments to
Providers

All Other \$119,912 \$119,912

Provides funds
for an annual
18% increase in
fees to
providers of
dental care.

STATEMENT OF FACT

For the past 3 years meetings between the Department of Human Services and the Maine Dental Association to review dental fees have been held in accordance with the Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3173.

Although minor fee increases for oral surgery and orthodontics have been recommended by the Bureau of Medical Services, the Department of Human Services has not submitted requests for increases in the dental fee schedule for inclusion in the Governor's budget which reflect the cost of providing dental services and the effect of inflation and other economic factors on the existing dental fee schedules.

According to recent statistics published by the American Dental Association, the operating expenses in a dental practice in the Maine area constitute approximately 60% of the dentist's usual and customary fee. Comparing fees charged in the United States in 1982, as compiled by the American Dental Association, to dental fees paid currently by the Maine Medical Assistance Program, the Maine Medical Assistance Program fees are approximately 47% of these average fees. Generally, Maine dentists participating in the Medical Assistance Program are paid fees which at 1982 levels, are on the average 13% less than their costs.

1 The purpose of this bill would be to increase
2 fees to providers of dental services to Medicaid re-
3 cipients in order to more properly reflect the cost
4 of these services. Increasing fees by 18% over the
5 current level allows dental providers to at least
6 cover their costs in providing these services.

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