

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 999

8 S.P. 351

In Senate, March 13, 1985

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

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

Presented by Senator Bustin of Kennebec.

12 Cosponsored by Representative Murphy of Kennebunk, Representative
Melendy of Rockland and Representative Nelson of Portland.

13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 AN ACT Relating to Medicaid Reimbursement
19 Rates for Audiology and Speech
20 Pathology.
21

22 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
23 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
24 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

25 Whereas, the Department of Human Services has
26 failed to increase the reimbursement rate for audiol-
27 ogy, speech-language pathology and speech and hearing
28 center services since 1976, in spite of the substan-
29 tial increases in the costs of personnel, materials,
30 equipment, travel and overall operating costs; and

31 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
32 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
33 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
34 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
35 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
36 therefore,

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

3 **Sec. 1. Legislative intent.** It is the intent of
4 the Legislature that the Department of Human Services
5 shall increase the portion of the Medicaid budget al-
6 located to audiology and speech-language pathology
7 services and speech and hearing center services by
8 \$70,000. That money, together with the appropriate
9 matching share from federal funds, shall be used to
10 reimburse state-licensed audiology and
11 speech-language providers and speech and hearing cen-
12 ters to increase the fee schedule for payments di-
13 rectly to providers and to increase the reimbursement
14 for hospital and agency based providers. The fees and
15 reimbursements shall be calculated on a cost-related
16 basis, as provided by rules promulgated by the com-
17 missioner.

18 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are
19 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
20 purposes of this Act.

21		<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
22	<u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u>		
23	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
24	Bureau of Medical Services		
25	Medical Assistance		
26	Program Accounts		
27	All other	\$70,000	\$70,000

28 **Sec. 3. Allocation.** The following funds are al-
29 located from federal funds to carry out the purposes
30 of this Act.

31		<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
32	<u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u>		
33	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
34	Bureau of Medical Services		
35	Medical Assistance		
36	Program Accounts		
37	All Other	\$158,013	\$154,791

1 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited
2 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
3 proved.

4

STATEMENT OF FACT

5 The reimbursement rates for audiology and
6 speech-language pathology services and speech and
7 hearing centers have not been increased since 1976.
8 During the past 9 years, the costs of personnel, ma-
9 terials and equipment, travel and overall operating
10 costs have increased substantially anywhere from 60%
11 to 110%. The Department of Human Services has failed
12 to meet this increase in the cost of providing audi-
13 ology and speech-language pathology services. Re-
14 quests for increases were made in the years 1982,
15 1983 and 1984. The present rates do not meet the
16 cost of providing this necessary service to citizens
17 of the State.

18 This bill will increase the fee schedule and pro-
19 vide for increased reimbursement for audiology and
20 speech-language pathology services on cost-related
21 basis.

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