

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. 1340

8 H.P. 934

House of Representatives, April 19, 1985

9 Reported by Representative Nelson from the Commission to Examine the
10 Availability, Quality and Delivery of Services Provided to Children with
11 Special Needs pursuant to Resolve 1983, Chapter 47, as amended by Resolve
1983, Chapter 86 and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

12
13 STATE OF MAINE
14

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

18 Resolve, Relating to the Development of an
19 Interdepartmental Medicaid Review
20 Committee.
21

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

26 Whereas, in the past, little attention has been
27 given to studying the expansion of Medicaid reim-
28 bursement in the area of mental health and related
29 services to children and troubled youth; and

30 Whereas, there has been a substantial increase in
31 the demand for mental health services to children due
32 to the increase in reported cases of child abuse and
33 other factors; and

1 Whereas, available resources to pay for these
2 services have been unable to keep pace with this de-
3 mand; and

4 Whereas, a more creative use of the Medicaid Pro-
5 gram could increase the availability and range of
6 mental health services to children with special
7 needs; and

8 Whereas, the Commission to Examine the Availabil-
9 ity, Quality and Delivery of Services Provided to
10 Children with Special Needs has determined that a
11 number of areas relating to Medicaid reimbursement
12 should be studied in greater depth; and

13 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
14 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
15 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
16 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
17 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 Committee established. Resolved: That the De-
20 partment of Human Services shall convene an interde-
21 partmental Medicaid Review Committee to develop pro-
22 posals for certain revisions in Maine's Medicaid Pro-
23 gram; and be it further

24 Duties. Resolved: That the committee shall con-
25 sider the following areas of concern:

26 1. A proposal to finance services in the most
27 appropriate setting, including, but not limited to,
28 home-based care and counseling through Medicaid reim-
29 bursement;

30 2. A proposal for Medicaid reimbursement for al-
31 coholism treatment services provided in rehabilita-
32 tion setting other than hospitals;

33 3. Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for
34 mental health services;

35 4. Medicaid reimbursement for mental health ser-
36 vices provided by all certified social workers; and

1 In its search for problem areas or gaps in the
2 system, the commission invited comments from parents,
3 educators, child welfare officials and mental health
4 experts. The commission conducted public hearings
5 and invited written recommendations, state agency
6 proposals and professional association critiques.

7 After more than a year of study, the commission
8 found that many positive changes had been made in
9 Maine's social service delivery system since the
10 years when Malcolm Robbins was a child. The commis-
11 sion also acknowledged that numerous problems contin-
12 ue to hamper crucial services and treatment to chil-
13 dren with mental, emotional or behavioral problems.

14 Of the commission's 29 recommendations, 14 re-
15 quired administrative action by the Department of
16 Corrections, Department of Educational and Cultural
17 Services, Department of Human Services and Department
18 of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. An addi-
19 tional 7 recommendations are addressed in legislative
20 resolves.

21 The purpose of this resolve is to establish an
22 interagency committee to review current Medicaid re-
23 imbursement policies and to look specifically at ex-
24 panding Medicaid reimbursement to cover services de-
25 livered in alternative settings and services provided
26 by specialized groups of providers. A written report
27 shall be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on
28 Human Resources no later than January 15, 1986.

29 The need to review current Medicaid reimbursement
30 policies is reflected in the report of the Commission
31 to Examine the Availability, Quality and Delivery of
32 Services Provided to Children with Special Needs.

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