

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1278

H.P. 949 House of Representatives, April 15, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Banking and Insurance
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative HARPER of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative HICHBORN of LaGrange and
Senator PEARSON of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Provide Remuneration for Physician
2 Services for Involuntary Commitment of
3 Patients for Psychiatric Hospital
4 Care.
5

6 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
7 follows:

8 Sec. 1. 24 MRSA §2325, sub-§5, ¶¶B and C, as en-
9 acted by PL 1983, c. 515, §4, are amended to read:

10 B. Day treatment services; and

11 C. Outpatient services; and

12 Sec. 2. 24 MRSA §2325, sub-§5, ¶D is enacted to
13 read:

1 D. An examination for involuntary commitment to
2 a mental hospital pursuant to Title 34, section
3 3863, subsection 2.

4 Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA §2843, sub-§5, ¶¶B and C, as
5 enacted by PL 1983, c. 515, §6, are amended to read:

6 B. Day treatment services; and

7 C. Outpatient services; and

8 Sec. 4. 24-A MRSA §2843, sub-§5, ¶D is enacted
9 to read:

10 D. An examination for involuntary commitment to
11 a mental hospital pursuant to Title 34, section
12 3863, subsection 2.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 Patients involuntarily committed to a mental hos-
15 pital must have been examined by a physician or clin-
16 ical psychologist within 3 days of that admission.
17 Involuntary admission requires a judicial process.
18 Lawyers who represent the patient have their fees
19 paid by the courts. Physicians and psychologists who
20 certify Medicaid patients likewise have their profes-
21 sional fees paid by Medicaid. Physicians and psy-
22 chologists who certify non-Medicaid patients do not
23 have their professional fees paid. This bill re-
24 quires health insurance to include the cost of this
25 certification as a part of its benefits.

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