

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1964

H.P. 1453 House of Representatives, January 7, 1988

Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Reference to the Committee on Business Legislation
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk.

Presented by Representative DIAMOND of Bangor.

Cosponsored by President PRAY of Penobscot, Senator
PERKINS of Hancock and Representative ALLEN of Washington.

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, to Increase the Supply of
Reimbursable Mental Health
Professionals.

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5 **Study. Resolved:** That the Department of
6 Professional and Financial Regulation shall conduct a
7 study to determine feasible methods of increasing the
8 supply of reimbursable mental health professionals.
9 The study shall address a means of expanding the
10 numbers and kinds of professions that may be
11 reimbursed by insurance companies and other 3rd-party

1 funding sources in order to accomplish at least the
2 following purposes:

3 1. To greatly increase access to expanded mental
4 health services for state residents; and

5 2. To help control rapidly rising costs of those
6 services by increasing the supply of reimbursable
7 service providers; and be it further

8 **Report. Resolved:** That the department submit
9 its report of the study, including any necessary
10 implementing legislation, to the First Regular Session
11 of the 114th Legislature no later than January 1,
12 1989; and be it further

13 **Implementation. Resolved:** That the department
14 shall design a program and promulgate rules by which
15 the expansion of the numbers and kinds of reimbursable
16 mental health professionals may be implemented by July
17 1, 1989.

18 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

19 Currently, only counselors and therapists who are
20 members of certain professions may be reimbursed for
21 their services by 3rd-party sources. Many other very
22 competent professionals from closely related fields
23 are not paid by these funding sources, and yet their
24 services are very valuable to mental health centers
25 and to the clients they serve. This bill requires the
26 Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to
27 study the issue of expanding the numbers and kinds of
28 professions which may be reimbursed. The department
29 shall make its report by January 1, 1989, and shall
30 implement the expansion program by July 1, 1989.

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