

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

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No. 2324

S.P. 895 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. JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec. Cosponsored by President PRAY of Penobscot, Representative MATTHEWS of Caribou, Representative HICKEY of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Establishing a Medicare Assignment Program.

4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as 5 follows:

6 32 MRSA §3297-A is enacted to read:

7 §3297-A. Acceptance of Medicare assignment

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1	1. Reasonable charges. Each allopathic physician
2	licensed pursuant to chapter 48, each osteopathic
3	physician licensed pursuant to chapter 36, each
4	chiropractor licensed pursuant to chapter 9, and each
5	podiatrist licensed pursuant to chapter 51 who agrees
6	to treat Medicare-eligible individuals shall also
7	agree not to charge to or collect from those
8	beneficiaries any amount in excess of the reasonable
9	charge for the service as determined by the United
10	State Secretary of Health and Human Services.

11 2. Failure to comply. Failure to comply with 12 this section shall be grounds for revocation of 13 licensure and registration.

14 <u>3. Compliance; condition of registration.</u>
15 <u>Compliance with this section shall be a condition of granting or renewing a certificate of registration of a physician covered by this section.</u>

Annual report. The Office of Vital Statistics 18 shall study the impact of this section on delivery of 19 services and shall make an annual report to the joint 20 committee of the Legislature 21 standing having 22 jurisdiction over human resources and to the Maine Health Policy Advisory Council. The office shall also 23 specifically report on the impact of this section on the availability of medical care in areas designated 24 25 medically underserved by the United 26 as States Secretary of Health and Human Services. 27

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STATEMENT OF FACT

29 Currently, a little more than 1/3 of Maine's 30 physicians accept Medicare assignments in all cases. 31 This creates a financial hardship for many of Maine's 32 elderly seeking medical care.

This bill requires doctors who agree to treat Medicare patients to accept Medicare assignments as a condition of licensure and practice. The Office of Vital Statistics shall collect information to provide the basis for a thorough study of the bill's impact on delivery of services and shall annually report to the

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Legislature and Maine Health Policy Advisory Council.
 The study will also focus on the impact on medical
 services delivery in medically underserved areas.

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