

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 196, L.D. 276, Bill, "An Act to Establish a Demonstration Project at the York Hospital"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following:

'An Act to Provide a Special Adjustment for Border Hospitals Experiencing Economic Hardship'

Further amend the bill in the emergency preamble by striking out all of the 2nd to 5th paragraphs (page 1, lines 5 to 25 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following:

Whereas, certain border hospitals are experiencing economic hardship that may result in the loss of valuable health services in border communities unless special relief is provided rapidly through the hospital regulatory system; and

Whereas, the necessary relief cannot be provided without changes in the current law; and'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting in its place the following:

'22 MRSA §396-D, sub-§9-B is enacted to read:

9-B. Special relief for border hospitals. In determining financial requirements for a border hospital's 5th payment year, the commission shall make a special adjustment in accordance with the following provisions:

A. As used in this subsection, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Border hospital" means a Maine hospital located

1 within 10 miles of the New Hampshire border.

3 (2) "Economic hardship" means an excess of reasonably
5 budgeted, noncapital, acute care operating expenses
7 over noncapital financial requirements.

9 (3) "5th payment year" means a hospital's payment year
11 beginning or deemed to begin on or after October 1,
13 1988, and before October 1, 1989.

15 B. In considering an adjustment under this subsection, the
17 commission shall determine the extent to which the hospital
19 has demonstrated that its economic hardship is attributable
21 to unique circumstances affecting border hospitals. In no
23 event may an adjustment under this subsection exceed the
25 portion of a hospital's economic hardship attributed to the
27 unique circumstances of border hospitals.

29 C. This adjustment may be made during the course of the 5th
31 payment year. An adjustment under this subsection shall
33 become part of payment year financial requirements for
35 purposes of computing subsequent payment year financial
37 requirements pursuant to section 396-C.

D. This subsection is repealed October 1, 1991.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

 This amendment changes the bill which previously would have essentially exempted York Hospital from the Health Care Finance Commission's regulations as part of a demonstration project. Under this amendment, York Hospital would remain subject to the commission's control. The commission would be authorized to make a special adjustment to the extent that a border hospital acted reasonably and necessarily in incurring extraordinary costs in response to unique circumstances affecting border hospitals.