

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "*A*" to H.P. 382, L.D. 556, Bill, "An Act to Improve Eye Care in the Schools"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Concerning Reimbursement for Certain Medical Services as Special Education Services'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause before the statement of fact:

'State special education services; study. The Department of Education shall conduct a staff study regarding the costs, benefits and possible alternative ways of amending existing state special education services rules to provide coverage for necessary medical services when identified as educationally appropriate. The department shall hold one or more public forums to hear testimony or to present findings and recommendations to interested parties. The department shall evaluate the results of the staff study and public input and present a report of its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education no later than January 15, 1992. In developing findings and recommendations, the department shall take into account the historical distinction in state and federal law between educational and medical services, the current state and federal restrictions governing reimbursement for medical services, the evolution of state rules that permit reimbursement for some medically related services and the possibility that certain services traditionally defined as medical because of the source of the treatment may be educationally necessary to enable some students to benefit from an appropriate education.

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FISCAL NOTE

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6 The costs associated with a study of the cost, feasibility
and means of including certain medical services as reimbursable
8 special education costs can be absorbed within current budgeted
resources of the Department of Education.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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14 The original bill established behavioral optometry services
as an allowable special education cost to be reimbursed by the
16 State. This amendment replaces the original bill and directs the
Department of Education to conduct a study of the cost,
18 feasibility and means of including certain medical services as
reimbursable special education costs when necessary to provide an
appropriate education to some students. The department will
20 report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by
January 15, 1992.

Reported by the Committee on Education
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House
(4/17/91) (Filing No. H-147)