

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. of S.

L.D. 119

(Filing No. H- 513)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
116TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 89, L.D. 119, Bill, "An Act to Establish Parity in Medicaid Reimbursement Among Licensed Master Social Workers, Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors and Licensed Professional Counselors"

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

'An Act Regarding Medicaid Reimbursement for Counseling Services'

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-L is enacted to read:

§3174-L. Parity among counselors

1. Licensed clinical social workers and licensed clinical professional counselors. Licensed clinical social workers must be eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursement for counseling services whenever licensed clinical professional counselors are eligible to be reimbursed for those services. Licensed clinical professional counselors must be eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursement for counseling services whenever licensed clinical social workers are eligible to be reimbursed for those services.

2. Licensed master social workers and licensed professional counselors. Licensed master social workers must be eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursement for counseling services whenever licensed professional counselors are eligible to be reimbursed for those services. Licensed professional counselors must be eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursement for counseling services whenever licensed master social workers are eligible to be reimbursed for those services.

Sec. 2. Study. The Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure and the State Board of Social Worker Licensure shall jointly study whether Medicaid reimbursement should be extended

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 89, L.D. 119

2 to licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed pastoral
3 counselors. The boards shall consult with the Department of
4 Human Services in preparing their recommendations. The boards
5 shall submit a report, along with any necessary implementing
6 legislation, the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources by
7 January 1, 1994.

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FISCAL NOTE

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11 The Department of Human Services and the Department of
12 Mental Health and Mental Retardation will incur minor additional
13 costs to provide Medicaid reimbursement to licensed clinical
14 social workers whenever licensed clinical professional counselors
15 are eligible and to provide Medicaid reimbursement to licensed
16 master social workers whenever licensed professional counselors
17 are eligible. These costs can be absorbed within the respective
18 departments' existing budgeted resources.

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21 The Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure and the
22 State Board of Social Worker Licensure will incur some minor
23 additional costs to conduct a joint study regarding certain
24 aspects of Medicaid reimbursement. These costs can be absorbed
25 within the boards' existing budgeted resources.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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31 This amendment replaces the original bill. It treats
32 licensed clinical social workers and licensed clinical
33 professional counselors the same for the purposes of Medicaid
34 reimbursement. It treats licensed master social workers the same
35 as licensed professional counselors for the purposes of Medicaid
36 reimbursement. This differs from the original bill, which
37 treated licensed clinical professional counselors, licensed
38 master social workers, licensed professional counselors and
39 licensed social workers the same for the purposes of Medicaid
40 reimbursement.

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41 The amendment also requires the Board of Counseling
42 Professionals Licensure and the State Board of Social Worker
43 Licensure to study whether Medicaid reimbursement should be
44 extended to licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed
45 pastoral counselors and to report their findings to the
46 Legislature and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council
47 by January 1, 1994.

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The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

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