

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 481

S.P. 149

In Senate, February 11, 1993

**An Act to Provide Consumers with the Opportunity to Acquire an Estimate of Health Care Costs.**

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Reference to the Committee on Banking and Insurance suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ESTY of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative PINEAU of Jay.

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

4 Sec. 1. 24 MRSA c. 21, sub-c. X is enacted to read:

6 SUBCHAPTER X

8 ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

10 §2993. Estimate of charges

12 A health care provider upon request by a consumer shall  
14 provide the consumer with a written estimate of the cost to the  
16 consumer of providing the services about which the consumer has  
18 inquired or that the provider has recommended. A provider may  
20 not charge a consumer in excess of this estimate unless a revised  
22 estimate is provided to the consumer or the consumer's designated  
24 representative prior to the service being provided.

26 If a provider is required by law to provide the consumer  
28 with a bill of rights, information concerning the opportunity to  
30 obtain this estimate must be included in it. If no bill of  
32 rights is required, prior to providing services, the provider  
34 shall provide in writing to the consumer notification of this  
36 opportunity or post a notice concerning it in a place where it is  
reasonably likely to be seen by consumers prior to agreeing to  
receive services from the provider.

30 STATEMENT OF FACT

32 This bill requires health care providers to give to  
34 patients, upon request, a written estimate of the cost of  
36 providing the services requested by the patient or recommended by  
the doctor.