

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

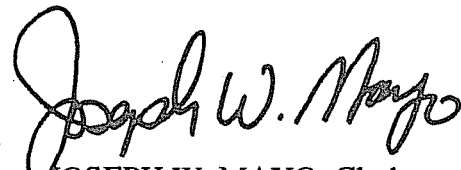
No. 1268

H.P. 939

House of Representatives, April 15, 1993

An Act Regarding the Collection of Medical Payments for an Absent Parent When a Court Order Exists.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HOGLUND of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, BRENNAN of Portland, CAMERON of Rumford, CARROLL of Gray, CATHCART of Orono, CLEMENT of Clinton, COTE of Auburn, DiPIETRO of South Portland, DORE of Auburn, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, GEAN of Alfred, GRAY of Sedgwick, GWADOSKY of Fairfield, HATCH of Skowhegan, HOLT of Bath, JACQUES of Waterville, KILKELLY of Wiscasset, KONTOS of Windham, LARRIVEE of Gorham, LORD of Waterboro, MITCHELL of Vassalboro, MURPHY of Berwick, NADEAU of Saco, OLIVER of Portland, PARADIS of Augusta, PINEAU of Jay, RAND of Portland, REED of Falmouth, ROTONDI of Athens, SAXL of Bangor, SIMONDS of Cape Elizabeth, SPEAR of Nobleboro, TARDY of Palmyra, TOWNSEND of Portland, TREAT of Gardiner, WALKER of Blue Hill, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BRANNIGAN of Cumberland, BUSTIN of Kennebec, CIANCHETTE of Somerset, ESTY of Cumberland, MARDEN of Kennebec, PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

2
4 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1712-A is enacted to read:

6 §1712-A. Proper billing for treatment of minors

8 Upon presentation of a certified copy of a signed court
10 order specifying the party responsible for medical expenses for a
12 minor child, each health care facility licensed pursuant to
14 chapter 405 shall ensure that any bill for medical services
16 provided to the minor child is sent to the responsible party
18 identified in the court order. A licensed health care facility
20 may not bill or request payment from the parent not responsible
22 for medical expenses even if the facility's usual policy is to
24 require payment when services are rendered.

26 The health care facility shall make a copy of the certified
28 court order and keep the copy in the file of a minor child
30 treated who is subject to an order presented in accordance with
32 this section.

34 Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §3297-A is enacted to read:

36 §3297-A. Proper billing for treatment of minors

38 Upon presentation of a certified copy of a signed court
40 order specifying the party responsible for medical expenses for a
42 minor child, each allopathic physician licensed pursuant to this
44 chapter, each osteopathic physician licensed pursuant to chapter
46 36, each chiropractor licensed pursuant to chapter 9, each
48 podiatrist licensed pursuant to chapter 51 and each nurse
50 licensed pursuant to chapter 31 shall ensure that any bill for
medical services provided to that minor child is sent to the
responsible party identified in the court order. A licensed
medical practitioner listed in this section may not bill or
request payment from the parent not responsible for medical
expenses even if the practitioner's usual policy is to require
payment when services are rendered.

42 A licensed medical practitioner shall make a copy of the
44 certified court order and keep the copy in the file of a minor
46 child treated who is subject to an order presented in accordance
48 with this section.

50 STATEMENT OF FACT

52 This bill requires licensed health care facilities and
54 licensed medical practitioners to bill the proper party for
56 medical expenses for treatment of a minor when presented with a

2 certified court order specifying the parent or other party
3 responsible for the child's medical expenses. The purpose of
4 this bill is to protect the custodial parent from having a bad
5 credit rating or bring subject to debt collection proceedings or
6 other adverse effects from unpaid medical bills that are not that
parent's responsibility.