

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1628

DATE: 3/23/94

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M A J O R I T Y  
HUMAN RESOURCES

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1209, L.D. 1628, Bill, "An Act Authorizing Medicaid Reimbursement for Certain Providers of Counseling Services"

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

**'An Act to Promote Fairness Among Various Types of Counselors'**

Further amend the bill by striking out section 1 and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-L, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 393, §1, is amended to read:**

**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.

This subsection is repealed July 1, 1995.

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA 3174-L, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:**

1-A. Licensed clinical social workers, licensed clinical professional counselors, licensed pastoral counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists. If a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed clinical professional

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counselor, a licensed pastoral counselor or a licensed marriage and family therapist is eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursement for counseling services, then persons licensed in any of those counselor categories are eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursement for those counseling services.

This subsection takes effect July 1, 1995.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

#### **FISCAL NOTE**

The Department of Human Services will require additional annual General Fund appropriations and matching Federal Expenditure Fund allocations beginning in fiscal year 1995-96 to provide Medicaid reimbursement to licensed pastoral counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists. The exact amounts required will depend on the actual utilization of these services and can not be determined at this time. Annual General Fund costs may be up to \$180,000.'

#### **STATEMENT OF FACT**

The original bill allowed licensed pastoral counselors to bill Medicaid directly for counseling services. The amendment does not allow direct billing, but qualifies licensed pastoral counselors for Medicaid reimbursement in those cases where licensed clinical social workers and licensed clinical professional counselors are qualified. The amendment also extends this parity to licensed marriage and family therapists. These changes are made effective July 1, 1995.'

The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.