

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This subsection is repealed July 1, 1995.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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

7 This subsection takes effect July 1, 1995.'

8
9 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
10 statement of fact the following:

11 **FISCAL NOTE**

12
13 The Department of Human Services will require additional
14 annual General Fund appropriations and matching Federal
15 Expenditure Fund allocations beginning in fiscal year 1995-96 to
16 provide Medicaid reimbursement to licensed pastoral counselors
17 and licensed marriage and family therapists. The exact amounts
18 required will depend on the actual utilization of these services
19 and can not be determined at this time. Annual General Fund
20 costs may be up to \$180,000.'

21
22
23 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

24
25 The original bill allowed licensed pastoral counselors to
26 bill Medicaid directly for counseling services. The amendment
27 does not allow direct billing, but qualifies licensed pastoral
28 counselors for Medicaid reimbursement in those cases where
29 licensed clinical social workers and licensed clinical
30 professional counselors are qualified. The amendment also
31 extends this parity to licensed marriage and family therapists.
32 These changes are made effective July 1, 1995.

33
34 The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.