

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1996

Legislative Document

No. 1696

H.P. 1236

House of Representatives, January 11, 1996

**An Act to Provide Equity in Payment for Substance Abuse Services
Purchased by the State.**

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and
ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative DAGGETT of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, FITZPATRICK of Durham,
JONES of Bar Harbor, POVICH of Ellsworth, TRUE of Fryeburg, VOLENIK of Sedgwick.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** dramatic and adverse changes in the State's
substance abuse treatment service system will be necessary if the
Legislature does not act on this legislation immediately; and

8
10 **Whereas,** substance abuse program closures will result before
the Legislature adjourns in the absence of emergency legislation;
and

12
14 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
16 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

20 **Sec. 1. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
22 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

24 **1996-97**

26 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

28 **Office of Substance Abuse**

30 All Other \$2,000,000

32 Provides for the
appropriation of funds to
34 offset a deappropriation in
PL 1995, c. 368, Part HHH.

36
38 **Sec. 2. Reimbursement policy.** The Director of the Office of
Substance Abuse may not implement the following changes to state
40 or federal reimbursement policy until those proposed changes are
reviewed and their impact assessed by the Joint Standing
42 Committee on Human Resources:

44 1. Changing all out-patient contracts to a fee-for-service
basis on January 1, 1996;

46

- 2 2. Eliminating treatment coverage for "affected others,"
particularly women and children;
- 4 3. Redefining "client" of the Office of Substance Abuse in
a manner that will significantly reduce coverage of the working
6 poor;
- 8 4. Eliminating subsidies from the Office of Substance Abuse
for Medicaid payments;
- 10 5. Eliminating funding for medical detoxification and
12 covering only social detoxification; and
- 14 6. Eliminating jail services.

16 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

18

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill provides funding for Maine's alcohol and substance
abuse program to replace funding deappropriated in the 1996-1997
24 biennial budget. The bill also delays implementation of proposed
changes in reimbursement policy by the Office of Substance Abuse
26 until those changes are reviewed by the Joint Standing Committee
on Human Resources.