MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1634

S.P. 529

In Senate, March 24, 1997

An Act to Promote Consumer Choice in Health Care Providers for Patients Discharged from Hospitals and in Need of Continuing Care.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative NASS of Acton and Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot, Representatives: BUCK of Yarmouth, CAMPBELL of Holden, CARLETON of Wells, DONNELLY of Presque Isle, FULLER of Manchester, KANE of Saco, SIROIS of Caribou.

	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1831 is enacted to read:
4	
	§1831. Patient referrals
6	
	In order to provide for informed patient decisions, a
8	hospital shall provide a list of qualified licensed home health
1.0	care providers to all patients who are referred for home health
10	services. When home health care is required by a patient, a
10	hospital shall provide the following information prior to
12	discharge:
14	1. List of providers. A list of all licensed home health
1.4	care providers who request to be listed by the hospital and
16	satellite offices, including addresses and phone numbers, that
10	serve the area in which the patient resides; and
18	serve the area in which the patient restats, and
10	2. Interest disclosure. Disclosure of the direct or
20	indirect financial interest the hospital has, if any, in the home
	health care provider.
22	
	The department shall establish by rule any quidelines
24	necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules
	adopted under this section are routine technical rules pursuant
26	to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.
28	
	SUMMARY
30	
	This bill provides consumers the freedom to choose any
32	licensed home health care provider available in their area. It
	requires hospitals to provide to patients who require home health
34	care a list of licensed home health care providers with a
	disclosure of any financial interest of the hospital in those
36	agencies.