



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1738

H.P. 1226

House of Representatives, April 3, 1997

An Act to Include Nontraditional Medical Alternatives under Health Maintenance Organization and Medicaid Coverage and to Allow the Patient to Choose the Method of Treatment.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GERRY of Auburn.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-R is enacted to read:

<u>§3174-R. Medical alternatives</u>

The department shall allow coverage under the Medicaid 8 program of nontraditional medical alternatives, including, but not limited to, polarity therapy, naturopathy, homeopathy and the 10 services of a licensed nutritionist and dietitian when the services are medically necessary and the patient is referred by a 12 physician. A participant of the Medicaid program has the option of choosing a nontraditional medical alternative.

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Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §4243 is enacted to read:

<u>§4243. Medical alternatives</u>

All health maintenance organization plan contracts must 20 provide coverage for nontraditional medical alternatives, including, but not limited to, polarity therapy, naturopathy, 22 homeopathy and the services of a licensed nutritionist and dietitian when the services are medically necessary and the 24 patient is referred by a physician. The patient has the option of choosing a nontraditional medical alternative.

SUMMARY

30 This bill requires the Department of Human Services to authorize coverage of nontraditional medical alternatives and 32 nutritional and dietary services under the Medicaid program. The bill also requires all health maintenance organization plan 34 contracts to provide coverage of nontraditional medical alternatives and nutritional and dietary services. The bill also 36 allows the patient to choose the method of treatment.