

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 2218

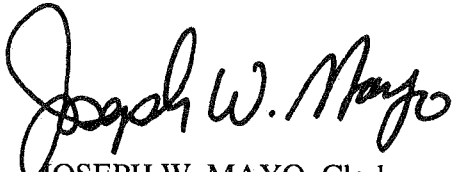
H.P. 1587

House of Representatives, February 17, 1998

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force On
Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly.**

Reported by Representative BROOKS for the Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly pursuant to Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part E.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 218.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

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

2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32
34
36
38
40
42

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §254-A is enacted to read:

§254-A. Elderly low-cost drug program information

The department shall produce and provide educational materials about the availability of, benefits under and application process for the elderly low-cost drug program established under section 254. These materials must include brochures for the Bureau of Revenue Services to mail to eligible residents with the drug cards, posters for pharmacies and flyers for pharmacists to include with prescription drug purchases.

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

1-A. Elderly prescription drug program. The department shall apply to the federal Health Care Financing Administration for a waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits to qualified persons 62 years of age and over whose household income is less than or equal to 185% of the nonfarm income official poverty line. Coverage may not begin before July 1, 1999 and until the waiver application has been approved. Coverage must begin within 90 days of the date the waiver application is approved.

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §6162-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. CCC, §6 and affected by §11, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Household income. An individual is eligible under this program if the household income, as defined in section 6201, subsection 7, is less than or equal to 185% of the nonfarm income official poverty line. The official poverty line is that applicable to a household of the size involved, as defined by the Federal Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with the United States Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, Section 673, Subsection 2.

44
46
48
50

SUMMARY

This bill contains the legislative recommendations of the Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly, established by Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part E.

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to provide educational materials on the elderly low-cost drug program. The materials will be distributed by the Bureau of Revenue Services when sending out the program's drug cards to eligible residents. Other materials will be made available to

2 pharmacies to post or to include with customers' prescription
drug purchases.

4 This bill expands the elderly low-cost drug program to cover
6 those who meet the age and disability requirements and whose
income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty
8 level. The current income limitation is approximately 131% of
the federal poverty level.

10 This bill directs the Department of Human Services to seek a
12 Medicaid waiver from the federal Health Care Financing
Administration to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits for
14 persons 62 years of age and over whose income is less than or
equal to 185% of the federal poverty level.