

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: May 21, 1999

(Filing No. S-337)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 77, L.D. 180, Bill, "An Act to Improve Access to Electronic Filing for Businesses"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §54 is enacted to read:

§54. Electronic filing

Every state agency, department, board, commission, institution, authority or public instrumentality that requires filing of information by businesses or the public:

1. Forms. Shall have the filing forms available for downloading from the Internet. This subsection takes effect June 1, 2000;

2. Inventory. Shall maintain an inventory of the forms available on the Internet; and

3. Fees. Is prohibited from charging a processing fee for or reducing the reimbursement rate of a party submitting a claim electronically unless specifically provided for in statute.

Sec. 2. Plan for electronic filing. By December 1, 2000, as required by Title 5, section 54, subsection 2, every state agency, department, board, commission, institution, authority and public instrumentality that requires the filing of information by businesses or the public shall provide to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state

2 government matters, the Governor and the Information Services
3 Policy Board an inventory of the forms available on the
4 Internet. The inventory must include the number of forms
5 required to be filed with the state agency, department, board,
6 commission, institution, authority or public instrumentality and
7 a schedule of when each form is required to be filed by a
8 business or a member of the public. Each state agency,
9 department, board, commission, institution, authority and public
10 instrumentality also shall submit a plan indicating when the
11 forms will be accepted electronically by that entity.

12 **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
13 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1999-00	2000-01
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Medical Care - Payments to Providers		
All Other	\$280,085	\$302,895
Provides funds for increased reimbursement rates for prescriptions dispensed under the Medicaid program.		

28 **Sec. 4. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from the
29 Federal Expenditures Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Medical Care - Payments to Providers		
All Other	\$550,165	\$593,775
Provides funds for increased reimbursement rates for prescriptions dispensed under the Medicaid program.'		

42 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
43 summary the following:
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FISCAL NOTE

1999-00 2000-01

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund	\$280,085	\$302,895
Other Funds	550,165	593,775

REVENUES

Other Funds	\$550,165	\$593,775
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The bill requires that, by June 1, 2000, every state agency, department, board, commission, institution, authority or public instrumentality that requires information filing from businesses or the public must have the "filing forms" available for downloading from the Internet. This requirement will necessitate additional expenditures by several state departments and agencies that have substantial filings from businesses. Some of the most severely impacted agencies include Maine Revenue Services, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. The amount of the additional funding required by departments and agencies to meet the June 1, 2000 deadline can not be determined at this time.

It is important to note that many agencies are working toward the objective stated in this bill. The impact on state agencies, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, authorities or public instrumentalities does not include building the capacity to have businesses and the public complete their filings via the Internet.

This bill includes General Fund appropriations of \$280,085 and \$302,895 and Federal Expenditures Fund allocations of \$550,165 and \$593,775 in fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01, respectively, for the Department of Human Services to fund the additional costs associated with provision of the bill that prohibits state agencies from reducing reimbursement rates for electronically submitted claims.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the original bill. All state entities that require the filing of information by businesses or the public are required to have filing forms available to download from the Internet by June 1, 2000. By December 1, 2000,

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 77, L.D. 180

2 those state entities must submit an inventory of their required
form filings and a plan indicating when those form filings will
4 be accepted electronically. This amendment also makes clear that
state entities may not charge a fee for electronically filing a
6 claim. This amendment also adds an allocation, an appropriation
and a fiscal note to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT