

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 733

H.P. 526

House of Representatives, January 26, 1999

An Act to Require the Department of Human Services to Pursue the Elderly Drug Waiver.

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

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GERRY of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Representatives: MENDROS of Lewiston, SHIELDS of Auburn.

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

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Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-G, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. RR, §4, is amended to read:

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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 or older. The department must seek the highest income level for which the department is able to obtain federal approval. The department shall limit the state share of program costs to the General Fund amounts available to the department from appropriations to the Low Cost Drugs for Maine's Elderly program and funds received pursuant to section 3174-R. The department shall pursue this waiver in the manner most likely to receive federal approval, including packaging this request in a larger waiver request with other Medicaid initiatives for which the department must seek a waiver of any type or another form of approval from the federal Health Care Financing Administration. The waiver request required by this subsection must be submitted to the federal Health Care Financing Administration no later than January May 1, 1999. The department shall report its progress in obtaining the waiver to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than October 1, 1998 1999 and February 1, 2000. The department shall submit legislation to provide coverage under this section prior to providing such coverage but no later than December 1, 1999.

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SUMMARY

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This bill provides a new time frame for the Department of Human Services to apply for a Medicaid waiver for prescription drugs for the elderly and requires the submission of implementing legislation by December 1, 1999.