

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 845

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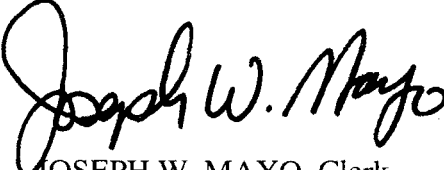
H.P. 605

House of Representatives, February 2, 1999

**An Act to Increase Access to Health Care for Low-income Maine People.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative KANE of Saco.  
Cosponsored by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot and  
Representatives: FULLER of Manchester, GAGNON of Waterville, O'NEIL of Saco,  
Senator: PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

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

6 §3174-U. Medical assistance for low-income persons

8 1. Program established. The department shall operate a  
10 program designated MaineCare to provide medical assistance to  
12 adult Maine residents who are ineligible for Medicaid with  
14 incomes below 125% of the federal nonfarm income official poverty  
16 line.

18 2. Services. Medical services provided under this section  
20 include those services provided by the Medicaid program.

22 3. Administration. Except as otherwise provided in this  
24 section, the MaineCare program must be integrated with the  
26 Medicaid program and administered with it in one administrative  
28 structure within the department, with the same enrollment and  
30 eligibility processes, and in compliance with the same laws and  
32 policies as the Medicaid program.

34 4. Advisory committee jurisdiction. The Medicaid Advisory  
36 Council authorized under federal regulation shall advise the  
38 department on the operation of the MaineCare program.

40 5. Maximization of federal funds. The department shall  
42 maximize the use of federal funds to the extent available in  
44 order to minimize expenditures under the MaineCare program. To  
46 maximize the use of federal funds, the department shall take all  
48 reasonable and necessary steps to apply for and seek federal  
Medicaid waivers or any demonstration grants.

6. Coordination of benefits. Any application for food  
stamps, TANF or Medicaid must be treated as an application for  
assistance under this section.

7. Rules. The department shall adopt rules to implement  
and govern the MaineCare program. Rules adopted pursuant to this  
section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

44 SUMMARY

46 This bill creates the MaineCare program to provide medical  
48 assistance to needy Maine individuals with incomes under 125% of  
the federal poverty level.