

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 866

S.P. 294

In Senate, February 2, 1999

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### An Act to Include a Podiatrist in the Definition of Physician.

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Reference to the Committee on Banking and Insurance suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative FULLER of Manchester and  
Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, KILKELLY of Lincoln, PARADIS of Aroostook,  
Representatives: BERRY of Belmont, LEMONT of Kittery, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, USHER  
of Westbrook.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 24 MRSA §2303-D is enacted to read:**

6 **§2303-D. Podiatrist included in definition of physician**

8 Whenever the terms "physician" or "doctor" are used in any  
10 contract for the provision of health care services or benefits  
12 under a medical care service plan operated by a nonprofit  
14 hospital or medical service organization operating pursuant to  
16 this chapter, these terms include within their meaning those  
18 persons licensed under and in accordance with the laws relating  
20 to the practice of podiatric medicine under Title 32, chapter 51  
22 with respect to any care, services, procedures or benefits  
24 covered by the contract that those persons are licensed to  
26 perform. Those persons must be compensated for the provision of  
28 services under the same terms and conditions as allopathic and  
30 osteopathic physicians are compensated including the  
32 differentiation in compensation between participating and  
34 nonparticipating providers of services, any provisions in the  
36 contract to the contrary notwithstanding.

40 **Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §2437-A is enacted to read:**

42 **§2437-A. Procedures covered by health insurance policies**  
44 **whether performed by physician or podiatrist**

46 Whenever the terms "physician" or "doctor" are used in any  
48 policy of health or accident insurance issued in this State,  
50 these terms include within their meaning those persons licensed  
52 under and in accordance with the laws relating to the practice of  
54 podiatric medicine under Title 32, chapter 51 with respect to any  
56 care, services, procedures or benefits covered by that policy of  
58 insurance that those persons are licensed to perform, any  
60 provisions in the policy of insurance to the contrary  
62 notwithstanding.

64 **SUMMARY**

66 This bill adds podiatrists to those health care  
68 professionals whose services are covered by health care services  
70 contracts provided by nonprofit hospitals or medical service  
72 organizations and whose services are covered by health or  
74 accident insurance policies.