

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)

DATE: May 4, 1999

(Filing No. S- 199)

BANKING AND INSURANCE

Reported by:

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 326, L.D. 980, Bill, "An Act to Increase Access to Nontraditional Medical Alternatives"

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4310 is enacted to read:

§4310. Coverage of naturopathy, acupuncture, massage therapy and nutrition services

A carrier offering a managed care plan in this State shall provide coverage for services provided by licensed naturopathic doctors, licensed acupuncturists, licensed massage therapists and licensed dietitians when the enrollee is referred for those services by the enrollee's primary care provider. The coverage required by this section must be included in all individual and group policies and contracts.

Sec. 2. Expenditures in excess of allocations. Expenditures required by this Act of funds other than the General Fund and the Highway Fund are authorized to exceed legislative allocations during the current biennium ending June 30, 2001. Appropriate adjustments to basic work programs facilitating these expenditures in excess of allocations must be recommended by the State Budget Officer and approved by the Governor.

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

R. W. S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 326, L.D. 980

	1999-00	2000-01
2		
4	ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	
6	Salary Plan	
8		
10	Personal Services	\$69,600
12	Provides funds in the event	
14	that costs exceed the amounts	
16	available as a result of the	
18	additional health insurance	
	costs associated with the	
	mandated benefit for	
	nontraditional medical	
	alternatives.	
20	DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES	
22	TOTAL	<u>\$69,600</u>
24		
26	EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF	
28	Retired Teachers' Health Insurance	
30	All Other	\$19,730
32	Provides funds for the	
34	State's share of the costs	
36	associated with the mandated	
	benefit for nontraditional	
	medical alternatives.	
38	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
40	TOTAL	<u>\$19,730</u>
42		
44	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	<u>\$89,330</u>

46 **Sec. 4. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from the
 48 Highway Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

AWS

1999-00

2000-01

2

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

4

6

Salary Plan

8

Personal Services

\$7,800

\$31,200

10

Provides funds in the event that costs exceed the amounts available as a result of the additional health insurance costs associated with the mandated benefit for nontraditional medical alternatives.'

12

14

16

18

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

20

22

FISCAL NOTE

24

1999-00

2000-01

26

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

28

General Fund

\$17,400

\$89,330

30

Highway Fund

7,800

31,200

32

This mandated benefit for nontraditional medical alternatives will increase health insurance costs for the State by approximately \$179,730 on an annual basis. This includes costs to the state employee health insurance plan of \$160,000 and \$19,730, which represents 30% of the costs to the retired teachers' health insurance plans. These estimates are based on information provided by actuaries of the State's health insurance provider and an insurer for some of the teachers' health insurance plans. Estimates similar to these will likely be used in initial rate setting. Future costs may vary from these estimates depending on the experience of the health insurance plans as they are affected by this mandated benefit.

34

36

38

40

42

44

This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$19,730 in fiscal year 2000-01 to provide funding for the State's share of the estimated increases in premiums for retired teachers' health insurance.

46

48

50

RWS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 326, L.D. 980

2 The total costs to the state employee health insurance plan
are estimated to be \$40,000 in fiscal year 1999-00 and \$160,000
4 in fiscal year 2000-01. Additional General Fund appropriations
of \$17,400 in fiscal year 1999-00 and \$69,600 in fiscal year
6 2000-01 are appropriated to the Salary Plan program within the
Department of Administrative and Financial Services to reserve
8 funds in the event that amounts available in General Fund
programs are insufficient to fund the estimated General Fund
10 share of the increase of health insurance costs. Similarly,
Highway Fund allocations are reserved in the Salary Plan program
12 for Highway Fund programs. For programs funded with funding
sources other than the General Fund and Highway Fund, language is
14 included to authorize expenditures in excess of allocations.

16 The Bureau of Insurance within the Department of
Professional and Financial Regulation will incur some minor
18 additional costs to review an increased number of contract
filings for compliance. These costs can be absorbed within the
20 bureau's existing budgeted resources.'

22 **SUMMARY**

24 This amendment is the minority report. It clarifies that
26 coverage must be provided for medical alternative services
provided by licensed naturopathic doctors, acupuncturists,
28 massage therapists and dietitians when a referral is made by an
enrollee's primary care provider.

30 The amendment also adds an appropriation and allocation
32 section and a fiscal note to the bill.