

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1498

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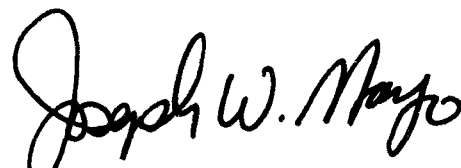
H.P. 1067

House of Representatives, February 25, 1999

**An Act to Include Nontraditional Medical Alternatives under Health Insurance and Medicaid Coverage and to Allow the Patient to Choose the Method of Treatment.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GERRY of Auburn.

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

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

**§3174-U. Medical alternatives**

The department shall allow coverage under the Medicaid program of nontraditional medical alternatives, including, but not limited to, polarity therapy, naturopathy, homeopathy and the services of a licensed nutritionist and dietitian when the services are medically necessary and the patient is referred by a physician. A participant of the Medicaid program has the option of choosing a nontraditional medical alternative.

Sec. 2. 24 MRSA §2332-J is enacted to read:

**§2332-J. Medical alternatives**

All individual and group nonprofit hospital and medical services plan policies and contracts and all nonprofit health care plan policies and contracts must provide coverage for nontraditional medical alternatives, including, but not limited to, polarity therapy, naturopathy, homeopathy and the services of a licensed nutritionist and dietitian when the services are medically necessary and the patient is referred by a physician. The patient has the option of choosing a nontraditional medical alternative.

Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA §2756 is enacted to read:

**§2756. Medical alternatives**

All individual health policies and contracts, except accidental injury, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term care and other limited benefit health insurance policies and contracts, must provide coverage for nontraditional medical alternatives, including, but not limited to, polarity therapy, naturopathy, homeopathy and the services of a licensed nutritionist and dietitian when the services are medically necessary and the patient is referred by a physician. The patient has the option of choosing a nontraditional medical alternative.

Sec. 4. 24-A MRSA §2847-G is enacted to read:

**§2847-G. Medical alternatives**

All group insurance policies and contracts, except accidental injury, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term care and other limited benefit health insurance policies and contracts, must provide coverage for nontraditional medical alternatives, including, but not

2 limited to, polarity therapy, naturopathy, homeopathy and the  
3 services of a licensed nutritionist and dietitian when the  
4 services are medically necessary and the patient is referred by a  
5 physician. The patient has the option of choosing a  
6 nontraditional medical alternative.

7 **Sec. 5. 24-A MRS §4245** is enacted to read:

8 **§4245. Medical alternatives**

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10 All health maintenance organization plan contracts must  
11 provide coverage for nontraditional medical alternatives,  
12 including, but not limited to, polarity therapy, naturopathy,  
13 homeopathy and the services of a licensed nutritionist and  
14 dietitian when the services are medically necessary and the  
15 patient is referred by a physician. The patient has the option  
16 of choosing a nontraditional medical alternative.

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18 **Sec. 6. Applicability.** This Act applies to a policy or  
19 contract executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or  
20 renewed on or after the effective date of this Act. A policy or  
21 contract is deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly  
22 anniversary of the contract date.  
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25 **SUMMARY**

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27 **28** This bill requires the Department of Human Services to  
29 authorize coverage of nontraditional medical alternatives and  
30 nutritional and dietary services under the Medicaid program. The  
31 bill also requires all health insurance policies and contracts  
32 and health maintenance organization plan contracts to provide  
33 coverage of nontraditional medical alternatives and nutritional  
34 and dietary services. The bill also allows the patient to choose  
35 the method of treatment.  
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