

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1755

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1226, L.D. 1755, Bill, "An Act to Improve Access to Dental Care for Children"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "~~§3174-U.~~" in the first paragraph by striking out all of the last sentence (page 1, lines 15 to 18 in L.D.)

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 3. Dental residency programs. The Finance Authority of Maine shall study the feasibility and costs of establishing a dental residency program in the State, the need for additional dental professionals and strategies and incentives for improving access to dental care for children and low-income residents. In studying these issues, the authority shall work together with the University of New England, the hospitals in the State that provide medical residency programs, the Maine Dental Association and the Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition. By December 31, 1999, the authority shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the results of the study, including the costs of establishing residency programs, costs of other programs to increase the number of dental professionals and to improve access to dental care for children and low-income residents, and estimated costs in General Fund and other money.'

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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FISCAL NOTE

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The additional costs associated with conducting an annual review of reimbursement rates and to study and report to the Legislature on the use of mobile vans for dental care can be absorbed by the Department of Human Services utilizing existing budgeted resources.

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The Finance Authority of Maine will incur some additional costs to study the feasibility and costs of establishing a dental residency program in the State; the need for additional dental professionals; and ways to improve access to dental services. These costs can be absorbed within the authority's existing budgeted resources.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment deletes the requirement that Medicaid reimbursed dental fees be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index. It requires the Finance Authority of Maine rather than the Department of Education to study dental residency programs. The amendment adds to the study the issues of the need for additional dental professionals and strategies and incentives to improve access to dental care for children and low-income residents. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

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