

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1755

H.P. 1226

House of Representatives, March 9, 1999

An Act to Improve Access to Dental Care for Children.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FULLER of Manchester.
Cosponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec and
Representatives: BRAGDON of Bangor, BRENNAN of Portland, COLWELL of Gardiner,
MATTHEWS of Winslow, PEAVEY of Woolwich, Senators: AMERO of Cumberland,
MITCHELL of Penobscot, PARADIS of Aroostook.

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. Medicaid reimbursement for dental services

The department shall conduct an annual review of the adequacy of reimbursement rates for dental services for dentists who provide care for a disproportionate number of patients whose care is reimbursed through the Medicaid program and the Cub Care program established in section 3174-T. By January 1, 2000, the department shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on the results of the study, including the costs in General Fund and other money. The department shall review dental fees annually and adjust them according to the Consumer Price Index as provided by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Sec. 2. Mobile vans for dental care. The Department of Human Services shall study the use of mobile vans for dental care to provide diagnostic and preventative dental services in remote or underserved areas of the State. By January 1, 2000, the department shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the results of the study, including the costs of procuring the vans, suggested plans for staffing and support services and estimated costs in General Fund and other money.

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Sec. 3. Dental residency programs. The Department of Education shall study the feasibility and costs of establishing a dental residency program in the State. In studying the issue, the department 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 January 1, 2000, the department 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 and estimated costs in General Fund and other money.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to undertake 3 studies and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2000. The studies concern mobile vans for dental services, residency programs in dentistry and reimbursement rates for dentistry paid through the Medicaid program. It requires

2 that increases in dental fees be tied to increases in the
Consumer Price Index.