

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R 23

L.D. 2308

DATE: 3/23/2000

(Filing No. S-587)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reported by:

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 889, L.D. 2308, "Resolve, to Provide Adequate Reimbursement for Speech and Language Pathologists"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Provide Adequate Reimbursement for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists'

Further amend the resolve in section 1 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 3 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "pathologist" the following: 'and audiologist'

Further amend the resolve in section 1 in the last line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "II-A." and inserting in its place the following: 'II-A; and be it further'

Further amend the resolve by inserting after section 1 the following:

'Sec. 2. Study of reimbursement rates. Resolved: That the Department of Human Services shall study reimbursement rates for providers of health care services under the Medicaid program. The department shall convene meetings of providers, consumers and other interested persons and shall notify Legislators on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services of all meetings. The study must include consideration of usual and customary rates, percentages of patients for whom reimbursement is paid by the Medicaid program, reimbursement rate history and availability of services for patients. The department shall report its findings and recommendations for increases, including

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R.O.S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 889, L.D. 2308

2 suggestions for a periodic method for making adjustments in the
future, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
4 jurisdiction over health and human services matters by January 1,
2001; and be it further

6 **Sec. 3. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
8 this resolve.

10 2000-01

12 **HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

14 **Medical Care - Payments to Providers**

16 All Other \$202,026

18 Appropriates funds for the state share of
the costs to increase the reimbursement
20 rates for speech and language pathologist
and audiologist services under the Medicaid
22 program by 18%.

24 ; and be it further

26 **Sec. 4. Allocation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
allocated from the Federal Expenditures Fund to carry out the
28 purposes of this resolve.

30 2000-01

32 **HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

34 **Medical Care - Payments to Providers**

36 All Other \$394,713

38 Allocates funds for the federal share of the
costs to increase the reimbursement rates
40 for speech and language pathologist and
audiologist services under the Medicaid
42 program by 18%.'

44 Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the
summary the following:

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RMS

FISCAL NOTE

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2000-01

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APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

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General Fund	\$202,026
Other Funds	394,713

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REVENUES

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Other Funds	\$394,713
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This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of \$202,026 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Department of Human Services to increase the reimbursement rates for speech and language pathologist and audiologist services under Medicaid by 18%. The estimated future costs will be approximately \$202,026 annually beginning in fiscal year 2001-02. This amount includes the costs of the rate increase for services to Medicaid clients of the Department of Education, Child Development Services System. This estimate does not include any additional costs that may be incurred by the Child Development Services System if the system provides a similar increase in the rate for services provided by independent contractors to non-Medicaid children.

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This resolve also includes a Federal Expenditures Fund allocation of \$394,713 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Department of Human Services for the federal match associated with the rate increase. The estimated future costs will be approximately \$394,713 annually beginning in fiscal year 2001-02.

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The additional costs associated with adopting rules and conducting a study of reimbursement rates can be absorbed within the existing budgeted resources of the Department of Human Services.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. It amends the resolve to add an increase in Medicaid fees for audiologists and calls for a study of reimbursement rates under the Medicaid program for all providers of health care services. It requires a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by January 1, 2001. It adds appropriation and allocation sections and a fiscal note.

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