

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 4/3/2000

(Filing No. S-633)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reported by:

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "C" 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 and a Study of Medicaid Reimbursement'

Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Increase in reimbursement rates. Resolved: That the Department of Human Services shall adopt rules to increase the reimbursement rates for speech and language pathologist and audiologist services under the Medicaid program by 18%. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A; and be it further

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

2 suggestions for a periodic method for making adjustments in the
4 future, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
jurisdiction over health and human services matters by January
15, 2001; and be it further

6 **Sec. 3. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
8 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
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
20 the costs to increase the reimbursement
22 rates for speech and language pathologist
and audiologist services under the Medicaid
program by 18%.

24 ; and be it further

26 **Sec. 4. Allocation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
28 allocated from the Federal Expenditures Fund to carry out the
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
40 costs to increase the reimbursement rates
42 for speech and language pathologist and
audiologist services under the Medicaid
program by 18%.'

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

48 **FISCAL NOTE**

50 2000-01

2 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

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

6 **REVENUES**

8 Other Funds \$394,713

10 This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of
12 \$202,026 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Department of Human
14 Services to increase the reimbursement rates for speech and
16 language pathologist and audiologist services under Medicaid by
18 18%. The estimated future costs will be approximately \$202,026
20 annually beginning in fiscal year 2001-02. This amount includes
22 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.

24 This resolve also includes a Federal Expenditures Fund
26 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.

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

34
36 **SUMMARY**

38 This amendment changes the title and replaces the resolve.
40 It is the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
42 Human Services. It amends the resolve to add an increase in
44 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 15, 2001. It adds
46 appropriation and allocation sections and a fiscal note.