

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2476

S.P. 946

In Senate, January 12, 2000

An Act to Promote Improvements to and Evaluation of Services by Long-term Care Providers.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator PINGREE of Knox.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §7950** is enacted to read:

6 **§7950. Principles of reimbursement affecting long-term
care facilities; evaluation of services**

8 **1. Contingent upon agreement.** A long-term care facility is
10 entitled to receive reimbursement under the department's
12 principles of reimbursement if those principles are altered after
the effective date of this section only if the long-term care
facility agrees to:

14 **A. Install internal quality improvement mechanisms at each
facility; and**

16 **B. Establish resident and family consumer councils, which**
18 **must meet at least quarterly. The facility must agree to**
20 **maintain a public record of the meetings of the councils and**
to make that record available to residents, families, state
officials and other interested parties.

22 **2. Evaluation.** The commissioner shall develop and
24 implement an evaluation system designed to measure residents' and
26 family members' satisfaction with services provided by all
long-term care facilities. The commissioner shall develop, test
28 and conduct the evaluation system in consultation with the
Long-term Care Steering Committee, as established under section
5107-B.

30 **Sec. 2. Study.** The Joint Standing Committee on Health and
32 Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Health and
34 Human Services and with the assistance of an outside independent
36 consultant, shall study and review the financial stability,
38 fiscal management and all other management practices of long-term
40 care providers, in relation to their impact upon the payment
42 methodology and payment rates for providers. The committee and
44 the department shall submit a joint report of their findings,
including any necessary recommended legislation, by December 31,
2000 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
jurisdiction over health and human services matters. That joint
standing committee may report out legislation to the First
Regular Session of the 120th Legislature based on the report.

46 **SUMMARY**

48 This bill requires that, before any changes are made to the
principles of reimbursement for a long-term care provider, there
50 must be in place in each facility mechanisms to promote internal

2 quality improvements, consumer councils and a system to measure
and evaluate consumer satisfaction. The bill also requires an
4 independent review of the financial stability, fiscal management
and other management practices of long-term care providers.