

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 219

S.P. 51

In Senate, January 18, 2001

**An Act to Expand the Cub Care Program and to Establish the Bear Care Program.**

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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 LONGLEY of Waldo.  
Cosponsored by Representative MAYO of Bath and  
Senators: BROMLEY of Cumberland, CATHCART of Penobscot, NUTTING of  
Androscoggin, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: BROOKS of Winterport,  
FULLER of Manchester, KANE of Saco, MAILHOT of Lewiston, MENDROS of Lewiston,  
Speaker SAXL of Portland.

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

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**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-G, sub-§1, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. OO, §1, is amended to read:

E. The parent or caretaker relative of a child described in paragraph B or D when the child's family income is equal to or below ~~150%~~ 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line, subject to adjustment by the commissioner under this paragraph. Medicaid services provided under this paragraph must be provided within the limits of the program budget. Funds appropriated for services under this paragraph must include an annual inflationary adjustment equivalent to the rate of inflation in the Medicaid program. On a quarterly basis, the commissioner shall determine the fiscal status of program expenditures under this paragraph. If the commissioner determines that expenditures will exceed the funds available to provide Medicaid coverage pursuant to this paragraph, the commissioner must adjust the income eligibility limit for new applicants to the extent necessary to operate the program within the program budget. If, after an adjustment has occurred pursuant to this paragraph, expenditures fall below the program budget, the commissioner must raise the income eligibility limit to the extent necessary to provide services to as many eligible persons as possible within the fiscal constraints of the program budget, as long as the income limit does not exceed ~~150%~~ 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line.

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-T, sub-§2, ¶A**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. QQ, §1 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

A. The maximum eligibility level, subject to adjustment by the commissioner under paragraph B, is ~~200%~~ 300% of the nonfarm income official poverty line.

**Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3174-T, sub-§5, ¶A**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. PP, §2, is further amended to read:

A. Premiums must be paid at the beginning of each month for coverage for that month according to the following scale:

(1) Families with incomes between 150% and 160% of the nonfarm income official poverty line pay premiums of 5% of the benefit cost per child, but not more than 5% of the cost for 2 children;

(2) Families with incomes between 160% and 170% of the nonfarm income official poverty line pay premiums of

2 10% of the benefit cost per child, but not more than  
10% of the cost for 2 children;

4 (3) Families with incomes between 170% and 185% of the  
6 nonfarm income official poverty line must pay premiums  
of 15% of the benefit cost per child, but not more than  
15% of the cost for 2 children; and

8 (4) Families with incomes between above 185% and 200%  
10 of the nonfarm income official poverty line must pay  
12 premiums of 20% of the benefit cost per child, but not  
more than 20% of the cost for 2 children.

14 **Sec. 4. Name change for the Medicaid program.** Beginning July  
16 1, 2002 the name of the Medicaid program in the State is changed  
to the "Bear Care program" for the purposes of service delivery  
18 and program administration within the State. Beginning October  
20 1, 2001 all materials and information published and disseminated  
by state departments and agencies that pertain to the Medicaid  
22 program for use by the public, including but not limited to the  
State's publicly accessible site on the Internet, must display  
the name "Bear Care."

24 **Sec. 5. Report with proposed legislation.** By January 15, 2002  
the Department of Human Services shall submit a report to the  
26 joint standing committee of the Legislature have jurisdiction  
over health and human services matters proposing legislation to  
28 accomplish the name change established in section 4. The joint  
standing committee shall submit legislation to accomplish the  
30 name change by July 1, 2002.

32 **Sec. 6. Amendment to the state Medicaid Plan.** By January 15,  
2002 the Department of Human Services shall file with the federal  
34 Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing  
Administration all necessary amendments to the state Medicaid  
36 plan to change the name of the Medicaid program in the State to  
the "Bear Care program" for the purposes of service delivery and  
38 program administration.

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42 **SUMMARY**

44 This bill establishes the Bear Care program in the State by  
changing the name of the Medicaid program beginning July 1,  
46 2002. It requires materials and information about the Medicaid  
program for use by the public to display the name "Bear Care"  
48 beginning October 1, 2001. By January 15, 2002 it requires the  
Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Joint  
50 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services proposing  
legislation to accomplish the name change. It directs the Joint

2 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services to submit  
3 legislation to accomplish the name change by July 1, 2002. It  
4 requires the Department of Human Services to file with the  
5 federal Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care  
6 Financing Administration all necessary amendments to the state  
7 Medicaid plan to change the name of the Medicaid program in the  
8 State to the "Bear Care program" for the purposes of service  
9 delivery and program administration by January 15, 2002.

10 This bill does not alter the designation "Cub Care" for the  
11 program providing health care coverage for children under the  
12 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-T. It does  
13 increase, however, the income eligibility from 200% to 300% of  
14 the federal nonfarm income official poverty line and sets the  
15 premiums for coverage for families with incomes above 185% of the  
16 nonfarm income official poverty line at 20% of the benefit cost  
17 per child, but no higher for a family than the cost for 2  
18 children. This bill increases the income eligibility level for  
19 parents of children on the Medicaid program from 150% to 200% of  
20 the federal nonfarm income official poverty line.