

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 414

H.P. 324

House of Representatives, February 1, 2001

**An Act to Require Health Maintenance Organizations to Cover
Optometrist Services.**

Reference to the Committee on Banking and Insurance suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.
Cosponsored by Senator DOUGLASS of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4249** is enacted to read:

4 **§4249. Optometrists in health maintenance organizations**

6 A health maintenance organization shall include in its plan
8 for health care services optometric services delivered by
10 licensed optometrists in accordance with this section.

12 **1. Qualifications of optometric providers.** A health
14 maintenance organization shall determine the qualifications of
16 optometrists using reasonable standards that are similar to and
18 consistent with the standards applied to other providers.

20 **2. Benefits.** A health maintenance organization shall
22 provide benefits covering care by optometrists at least equal to
24 and consistent with the benefits paid to other health care
26 providers treating diseases and conditions of the eye and related
28 structures.

30 **3. Self-referrals for optometric care.** A health
32 maintenance organization shall provide benefits to an enrollee
34 who uses the services of an optometrist by self-referral.

36 **SUMMARY**

38 This bill amends the laws applicable to payments by health
40 maintenance organizations for eye care services.

42 This bill requires health maintenance organizations to
44 include coverage for services by optometrists.