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Legislative Document

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S.P. 445

In Senate, March 8, 2001

Resolve, Directing the Department of Human Services to Adopt Rules Regarding the Reimbursement of Podiatrists.

(EMERGENCY)

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

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVAGE of Knox.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the 2 Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, podiatrists who accept assignment with the Medicare and Medicaid programs are receiving a 20% reduction in reimbursements over what they previously had been receiving as the result of a change to the Maine Medical Assistance Manual made by the Department of Human Services; and

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Whereas, federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, physicians, nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, ambulance services, mental health clinics, Indian health centers, psychologists and ambulatory care clinics are exempted from this change, and, therefore, are not subject to this 20% reduction in reimbursements; and

18 Whereas, this change has caused loss of coverage for podiatric care since March 29, 2000 and may cause some 20 podiatrists to be unable to continue to accept assignment with the Medicare and Medicaid programs if action is not taken 22 immediately to correct the inequitable economic treatment of podiatrists; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Reimbursement for podiatrists. Resolved: That the Department of Human Services shall adopt rules to include podiatrists in the group of health care providers who are exempt from reimbursement reductions imposed by the department with respect to its liability for Medicare Part B deductible and coinsurance charges. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

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42 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the 42 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Human Services to include podiatrists in the group of health care providers who are exempt from reimbursement reductions imposed by the department with respect to its liability for Medicare Part B deductible and coinsurance charges. These reimbursement reductions are the
result of a rule adopted by the department effective March 29,
2000.
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