

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

Legislative Document

No. 1959

H.P. 1462

House of Representatives, December 20, 2001

**An Act to Eliminate Department of Professional and Financial
Regulation, Bureau of Insurance Travel Restrictions for Obtaining
Health Care.**

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 17, 2001. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative MAYO of Bath.
Cosponsored by Senator EDMONDS of Cumberland and
Representatives: CUMMINGS of Portland, DUDLEY of Portland, ETNIER of Harpswell,
FULLER of Manchester, GLYNN of South Portland, O'NEIL of Saco, Speaker SAXL of
Portland, SULLIVAN of Biddeford.

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

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Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4205, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 503, is amended to read:

C. The furnishing of health care services through providers which that are under contract with or employed by the health maintenance organization. A health maintenance organization may furnish health care services through providers that exceed the standard geographic accessibility limits imposed by the bureau for primary care, specialty care and hospital services if the provider is a center of excellence;

Sec. 2. Rulemaking. Pursuant to the rule-making authority under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A, section 4222-A, the Superintendent of Insurance shall define "center of excellence" for purposes of section 4205, subsection 1, paragraph C.

SUMMARY

This bill overrides current Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance rules that restrict travel distances for obtaining health care by allowing patients enrolled in health maintenance organizations to seek appropriate care in centers of excellence outside of the standard travel area. The bill also requires that the Superintendent of Insurance define "center of excellence" under rule-making authority that already exists under statutes.