

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 694

S.P. 231

In Senate, February 10, 2005

An Act To Restore Fair MaineCare Payments to Critical Access Hospitals

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Representative AUSTIN of Gray and
Senators: HASTINGS of Oxford, NASS of York, SAVAGE of Knox, TURNER of
Cumberland, WESTON of Waldo, WOODCOCK of Franklin, Representatives: PINKHAM of
Lexington Township, ROSEN of Bucksport.

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

4
6 **Whereas,** it is imperative to improve the Medicare payments
to critical access hospitals; and

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

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

16 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1714-B** is enacted to read:

18 **§1714-B. Critical access hospital inpatient services**

20 MaineCare shall reimburse for 101% of the total MaineCare
22 inpatient operating costs from the most recent cost report filed
by the hospital, inflated forward to the current state fiscal
24 year. One million dollars, the state share of which is provided
by the hospital tax revenue, must be reallocated annually among
26 the critical access hospitals based on their relative proportion
of MaineCare services as compared to other critical access
28 hospitals.

30 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

32
34 **SUMMARY**

36 The bill requires the Department of Health and Human
Services to use a current critical access hospital cost report as
38 the basis for determining MaineCare reimbursement rates and
restores the full staff enhancement payment for critical access
hospitals.