

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 1808

H.P. 1248

House of Representatives, January 3, 2006

An Act To Streamline MaineCare Billing

(EMERGENCY)

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 28, 2005. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FISCHER of Presque Isle.

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

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6 **Whereas,** streamlining of the MaineCare payment system is
necessary to the efficient operation of providers of MaineCare
services, particularly during the time of transition in the
8 MaineCare Case Management System payment system; and

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

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

18 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §14, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

20 **4. Relationship with health carriers.** The department shall
adopt procedures for handling MaineCare claims when services are
22 provided for a MaineCare member and the provider has reason to
believe that no health insurance carrier is responsible for the
24 claim. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
procedures adopted pursuant to this subsection must allow
26 providers of health care under the MaineCare program to bill
directly to the MaineCare program and to use the same billing
28 codes as commercial health insurance carriers whenever possible.

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

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SUMMARY

36 This bill directs the Department of Health and Human
Services to adopt procedures for handling a MaineCare claim when
38 the provider has reason to believe that no health insurance
carrier is responsible for the claim. The procedures must allow
40 providers of health care to bill directly to the MaineCare
program and to use the same billing codes as commercial health
42 insurance carriers whenever possible.