

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 306

H.P. 250

House of Representatives, January 19, 2007

An Act To Provide Medically Necessary Speech Therapy Services

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLER of Somerville.
Cosponsored by Senator MARRACHÉ of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-FF, sub-§3, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt.
3 MMM, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4 A. A member is eligible for speech therapy benefits if the member has been
5 assessed to have rehabilitation potential or a demonstrated medical necessity for
6 speech therapy to avoid a significant deterioration in the member's ability to
7 communicate orally, safely swallow or masticate. In order for the member to be
8 eligible for speech therapy benefits, a physician must document that the member has
9 experienced a significant decline in ability to communicate orally, safely swallow or
10 masticate or may reasonably suffer a significant deterioration in these functions if
11 therapy is not provided. Speech therapy benefits must cover one initial evaluation of
12 the member per provider per year and one reevaluation every 6 months per provider.
13 Speech therapy benefits must cover outpatient therapy provided in the home,
14 independent practitioners' offices and speech and hearing clinic sites.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill allows the provision of speech therapy benefits under MaineCare Basic for
17 members who without a maintenance level of speech therapy services would experience a
18 significant decline in their ability to communicate orally, safely swallow or masticate.