

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 578

H.P. 445

House of Representatives, February 5, 2007

An Act To Help Maine People Be Informed Medical Consumers

Reference to the Committee on Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PRIEST of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator SULLIVAN of York and
Representatives: BRAUTIGAM of Falmouth, CANAVAN of Waterville, GERZOFSKY of
Brunswick, GROSE of Woolwich, SAVAGE of Falmouth, WEBSTER of Freeport.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4306**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 742, §15, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§4306. Enrollee choice of primary care provider**

5 A carrier offering a managed care plan shall allow enrollees to choose their own
6 primary care providers, as allowed under the managed care plan's rules, from among the
7 panel of participating providers made available to enrollees under the managed care plan's
8 rules. A carrier shall allow physicians, and certified nurse practitioners who have been
9 approved by the State Board of Nursing to practice advanced practice registered nursing
10 without the supervision of a physician pursuant to Title 32, section 2102, subsection 2-A,
11 to serve as primary care providers for managed care plans. A carrier is not required to
12 contract with certified nurse practitioners or physicians as primary care providers in any
13 manner that exceeds the access and provider network standards required in this chapter or
14 chapter 56, or any rules adopted pursuant to those chapters. A carrier ~~must~~ shall allow
15 enrollees in a managed care plan to change primary care providers without good cause at
16 least once annually and to change with good cause as necessary. A carrier shall provide
17 reimbursement under a managed care plan for an initial consultation by an enrollee with a
18 maximum of 3 primary care providers in a 12-month period to assist an enrollee with
19 choosing a primary care provider. When an enrollee fails to choose a primary care
20 provider, the carrier may assign the enrollee a primary care provider located in the same
21 geographic area in which the enrollee resides.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for an initial
24 consultation with a primary care provider to assist an enrollee in selecting a primary care
25 provider. The bill requires carriers to provide coverage for a maximum of 3 such visits
26 for an enrollee in a 12-month period.