

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1450

H.P. 1020

House of Representatives, March 16, 2007

An Act To Create Equity in Hospital Charges

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative WALCOTT of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CANAVAN of Waterville, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor,
GROSE of Woolwich, MILLER of Somerville, PINGREE of North Haven.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1712-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§1712-A. Limitation on billing**

4 Beginning January 1, 2008, a hospital licensed under chapter 405 shall apply an
5 allowance or discount against a fee for inpatient or outpatient services provided by the
6 hospital to a self-pay patient in an amount equal to an allowance or discount the hospital
7 applies to fees for similar services under MaineCare or Medicare, whichever is less. For
8 purposes of this section, "self-pay patient" means a patient who does not have 3rd-party
9 insurance coverage and whose family income is less than 400% of the federal poverty
10 guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill requires a hospital to apply the same allowance or discount against the
13 medical expenses of a self-pay patient as the hospital would apply to MaineCare or
14 Medicare, whichever is less. A self-pay patient is a patient who does not have insurance
15 coverage and whose family income is less than 400% of the federal poverty guidelines.