



## **123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1537

H.P. 1062

House of Representatives, March 20, 2007

**Resolve, To Improve Access to MaineCare Home Health Services** 

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

Millicent M. Mac Jarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative PINGREE of North Haven. Cosponsored by President EDMONDS of Cumberland and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Newfield, CLEARY of Houlton, FISCHER of Presque Isle, GROSE of Woolwich, MILLER of Somerville, PERRY of Calais, WALKER of Lincolnville, Senator: STRIMLING of Cumberland. 1 Sec. 1. MaineCare rates for Home health care. Resolved: That, by October 2 1, 2007, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend the rules for 3 reimbursement of home health agencies under the MaineCare program as follows:

1. The new rates must comply with the federal requirement that home health
Medicaid rates be sufficient to provide access to care and services for persons receiving
Medicaid-reimbursed home health services that is similar to access for the general
population;

8 2. The new rates must provide reimbursement for home health agencies that provides 9 a rate increase from the rates established in 1999 on a fee-for-service basis that 10 recognizes the increase in the Consumer Price Index medical index and must recognize 11 the greatly increased cost of mileage reimbursement to agency personnel traveling to 12 perform their work;

- 13 3. The new rates must provide reimbursement for remote in-home monitoring as a14 part of the care program for persons receiving home care; and
- 15 4. The new rules must provide for an annual review of home health care rates.

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16 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined by the 17 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A; and be it further

18 Sec. 2. Review; report. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human 19 Services shall assess the effect of providing home care and hospice benefits to 20 noncategorical adult waiver members and shall report its findings to the Joint Standing 21 Committee on Health and Human Services not later than December 1, 2007.

## SUMMARY

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adjust the rates for home health agencies providing care under the MaineCare program and to add an annual review and adjustment. The rules, which are designated as routine technical rules, must be amended by October 1, 2007. The resolve also directs the department to assess the impact of providing home care and hospice benefits to MaineCare members enrolled under the noncategorical adult waiver and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 2007.