

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1762

H.P. 1228

House of Representatives, March 27, 2007

**An Act To Increase MaineCare Reimbursement for Speech and
Language Therapists and Provide Treatment for Adults with
Developmental Disabilities**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator DAMON of Hancock and
Representatives: CAIN of Orono, CONNOR of Kennebunk, PINGREE of North Haven,
SILSBY of Augusta.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-FF, sub-§3, ¶A-1** is enacted to read:

3 A-1. A member is eligible for speech therapy benefits if the member is an adult and
4 has developmental disabilities and has been assessed to have rehabilitation potential
5 and has been documented by a physician to have experienced a significant decline in
6 ability to communicate orally, safely swallow or masticate. Speech therapy benefits
7 must cover one initial evaluation of the member with developmental disabilities per
8 provider per year and one reevaluation every 6 months per provider. Speech therapy
9 benefits must cover outpatient therapy provided in the home, independent
10 practitioners' offices and speech and hearing clinic sites.

11 **Sec. 2. Reimbursement increase.** The Department of Health and Human
12 Services shall increase the reimbursement rate of speech and language therapists used by
13 the MaineCare program by 5%.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill allows members of MaineCare who are adults with developmental
16 disabilities to receive an initial speech and language therapy evaluation and at least 2
17 reevaluations per year and be provided with coverage for outpatient therapy. It also
18 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the rate of
19 reimbursement for speech and language therapists used by the MaineCare program by
20 5%.