

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 2295

H.P. 1655

House of Representatives, April 2, 2008

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Working Group
To Study the Effectiveness and Timeliness of Early Identification
and Intervention for Children with Hearing Loss in Maine**

Reported by Representative NORTON of Bangor for the Working Group To Study the Effectiveness and Timeliness of Early Identification and Intervention for Children with Hearing Loss in Maine pursuant to Joint Order, H.P. 1513.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §8822, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

3 **4-A. Follow-up appointment with an audiologist.** Upon the approval of a parent
4 of a newborn who is screened and receives a screening result of "refer," the birthing
5 hospital or birthing center in which the child was born shall schedule the newborn for a
6 follow-up appointment with an audiologist. That follow-up appointment must be
7 scheduled prior to discharge and the hospital or center shall notify the newborn's primary
8 care provider in writing prior to discharge.

9 **Sec. 2. Report on barriers to access to audiologists.** The Newborn Hearing
10 Program, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1686 shall report to
11 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human
12 services matters on the results of its study of barriers to access to audiologists for the
13 continued evaluation of hearing loss in newborns.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill implements the unanimous recommendations of the Working Group To
16 Study the Effectiveness and Timeliness of Early Identification and Intervention for
17 Children with Hearing Loss in Maine.

18 The bill requires a birthing hospital or birthing center, upon the approval of a parent
19 of a newborn whose hearing is screened and receives a result of "refer," to schedule the
20 newborn for a follow-up appointment with an audiologist. That appointment must be
21 scheduled prior to discharge, and the birthing hospital or center shall notify the newborn's
22 primary care provider in writing of such a referral prior to discharge.

23 The bill also requires the Newborn Hearing Program within the Department of Health
24 and Human Services to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
25 jurisdiction over health and human services matters on the results of its study of barriers
26 to access to audiologists for the continued evaluation of hearing loss in newborns.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



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LD 2295 LR 3598(01)

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Fiscal Note for Original Bill
Committee: Health and Human Services
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services can be absorbed by the department utilizing existing budgeted resources.