

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1122

H.P. 834

House of Representatives, March 15, 2011

An Act To Increase Dental Benefits and Oral Health Care

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative HINCK of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, CORNELL du HOUX of Brunswick, EVES of
North Berwick, PETERSON of Rumford, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, STRANG BURGESS of
Cumberland, STUCKEY of Portland, TREAT of Hallowell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-F, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 159, §§1 and 2
3 and PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

4 **1. Coverage provided.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall
5 provide dental services, reimbursed under the United States Social Security Act, Title
6 XIX, or successors to it, to individuals 21 years of age and over, limited to:

7 A. Acute surgical care directly related to an accident where traumatic injury has
8 occurred. This coverage will only be provided for the first 3 months after the
9 accident;

10 B. Oral surgical and related medical procedures not involving the dentition and
11 gingiva;

12 C. Extraction of teeth that are severely decayed and pose a serious threat of
13 infection during a major surgical procedure of the cardiovascular system, the skeletal
14 system or during radiation therapy for a malignant tumor;

15 D. Treatment necessary to relieve pain, eliminate infection or prevent imminent
16 tooth loss; and

17 F. Other dental services, including full and partial dentures, medically necessary to
18 correct or ameliorate an underlying medical condition, if the department determines
19 that provision of those services will be cost-effective in comparison to the provision
20 of other covered medical services for the treatment of that condition.

21 By January 1, 2012, benefits provided under this section must include repair of decayed
22 or broken teeth and full or partial dentures.

23 **Sec. 2. Report on the feasibility of implementing certain provisions of the**
24 **Report of the Governor's Task Force on Expanding Access to Oral Health**
25 **Care for Maine People.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Maine
26 Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall convene a broadly representative
27 working group to review the feasibility of implementing recommendations 3 and 4 of the
28 2008 Report of the Governor's Task Force on Expanding Access to Oral Health Care for
29 Maine People. The working group must include representatives of public health officials
30 and advocates, providers of health services, consumers of health services, public health
31 educators, the Finance Authority of Maine, the Advisory Council on Health Systems
32 Development, the MaineCare Advisory Committee and professional associations of
33 health care providers. The working group shall review the report and recommendation 3,
34 which concerns integration of oral health care, and recommendation 4, which concerns a
35 coordinated public education campaign, and the action steps for each recommendation.
36 The working group shall report suggested legislation by November 1, 2011 to the Joint
37 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

SUMMARY

This bill provides expanded dental benefits for adults in the MaineCare program and also directs the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to convene a broadly representative working group to review the feasibility of implementing certain provisions of the Governor's Task Force on Expanding Access to Oral Health Care for Maine People and to report with suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by November 1, 2011.